

BATMAN KNIGHTFALL



25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION • VOLUME 2



Keller
Joyce '93





BATMAN KNIGHTFALL



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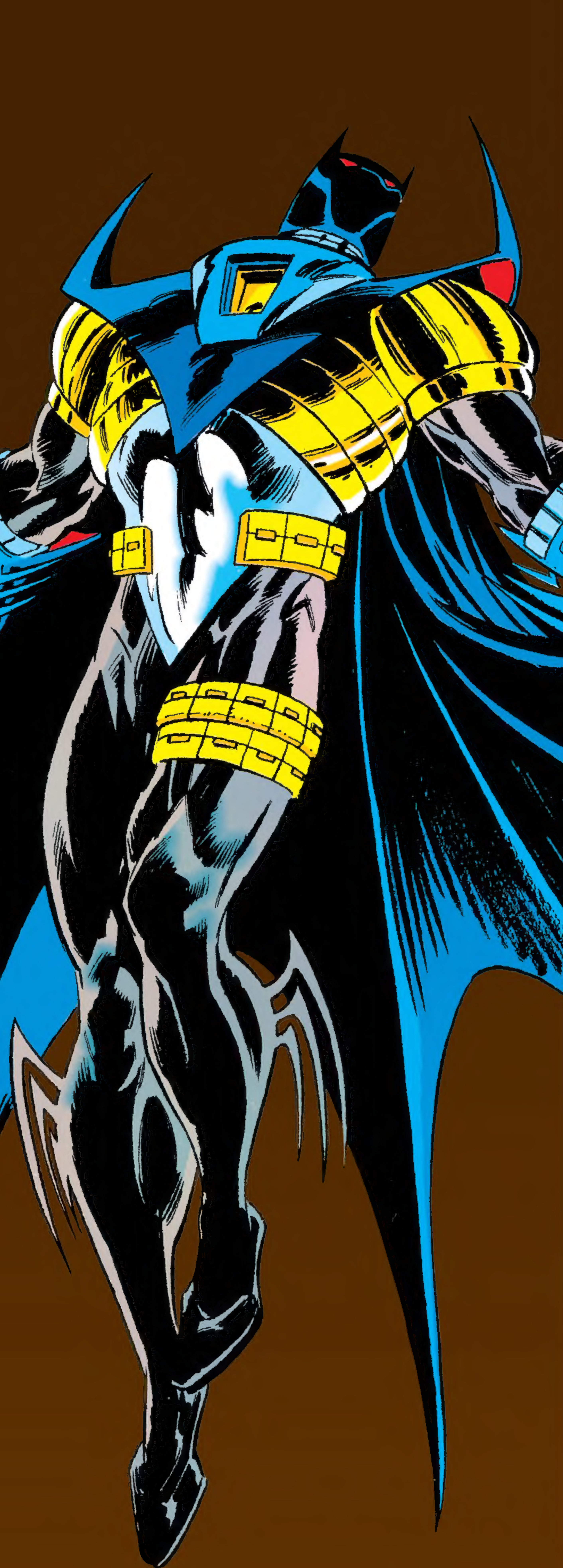
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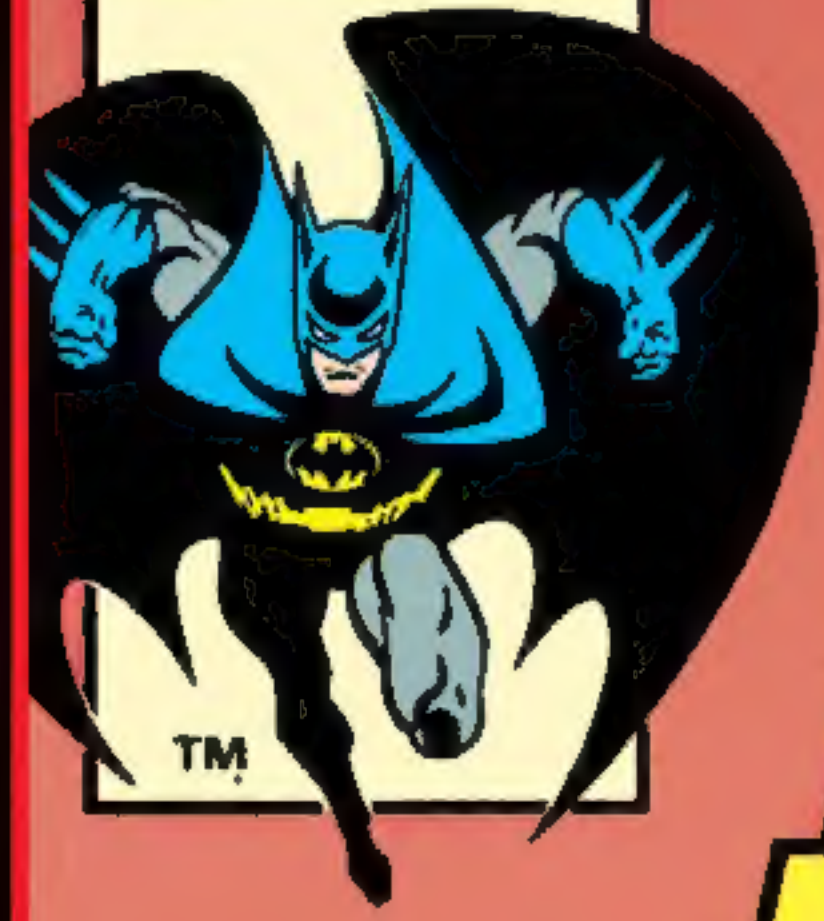
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JULY 93



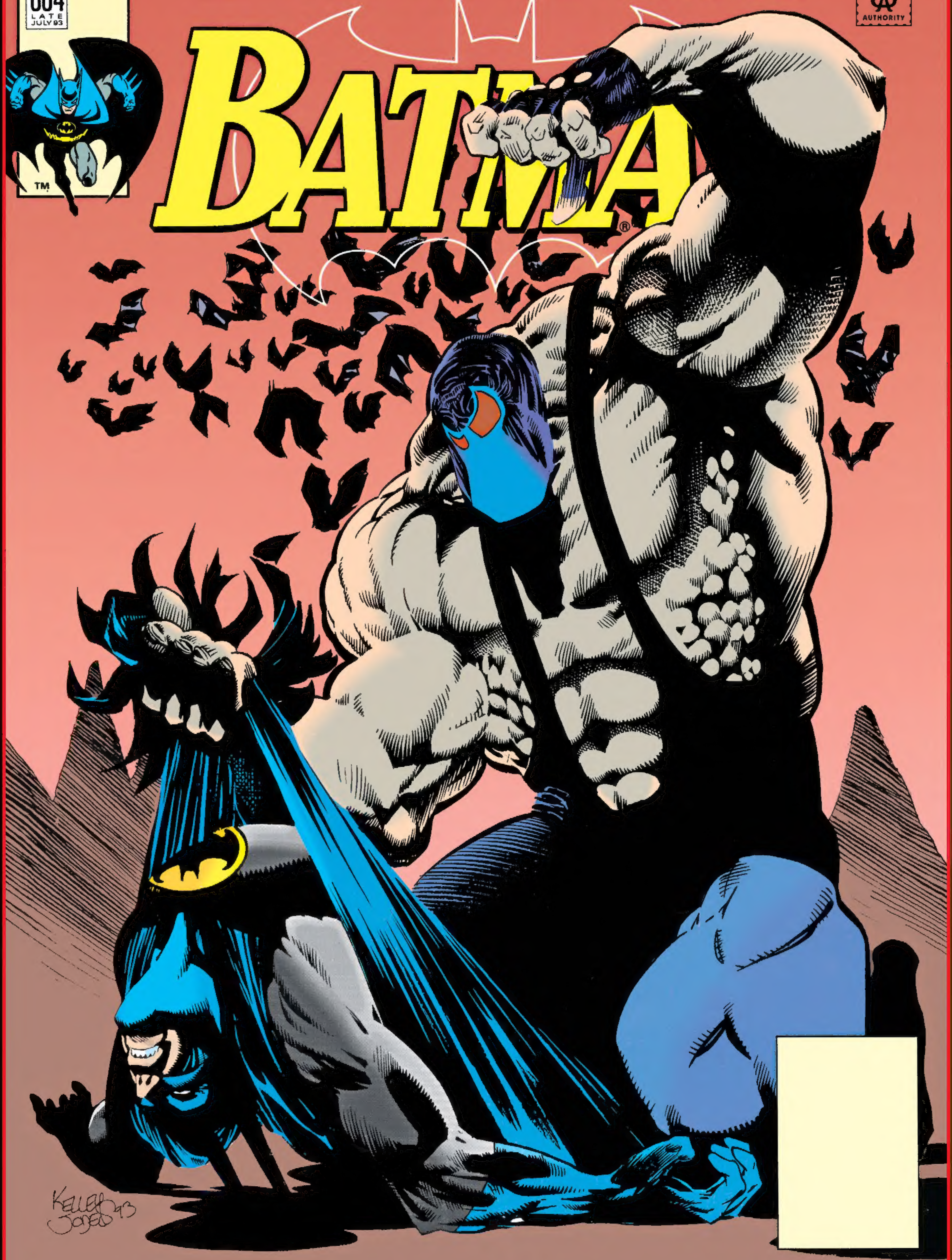
KNIGHTFALLTM



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FEATURING

BATMAN[®]





Cover art by
KELLEY JONES



WHO RULES THE NIGHT

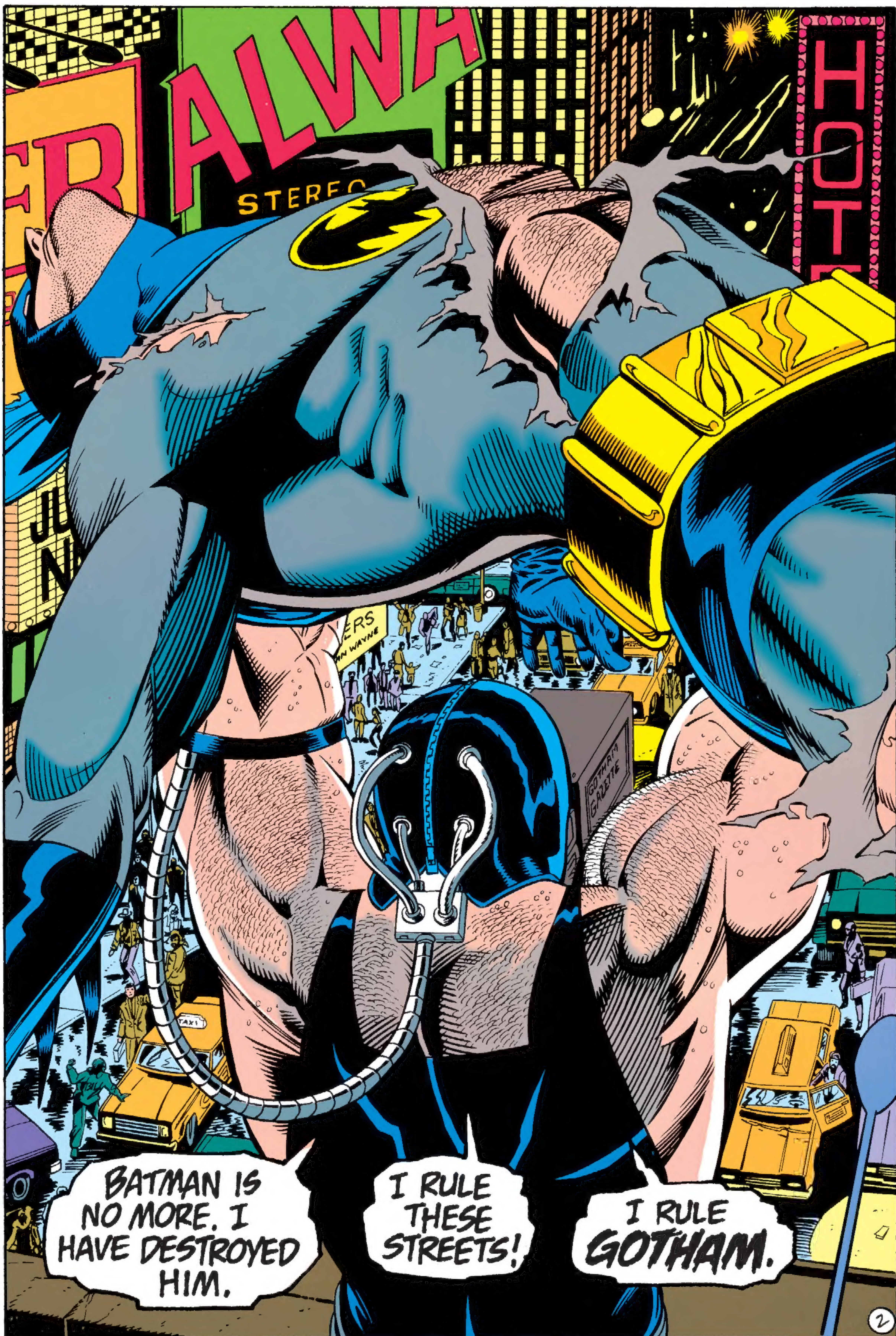
I AM BANE.

THIS CITY IS MINE!

GOTHAM'S DAILY
WHO IS MYSTERY MAN?

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| CHUCK DIXON • | GRAHAM NOLAN • | SCOTT HANNA |
| Writer | Penciller | inker |
| ADRIENNE ROY • | JOHN COSTANZA • | SCOTT PETERSON |
| colorist | letterer | editor |

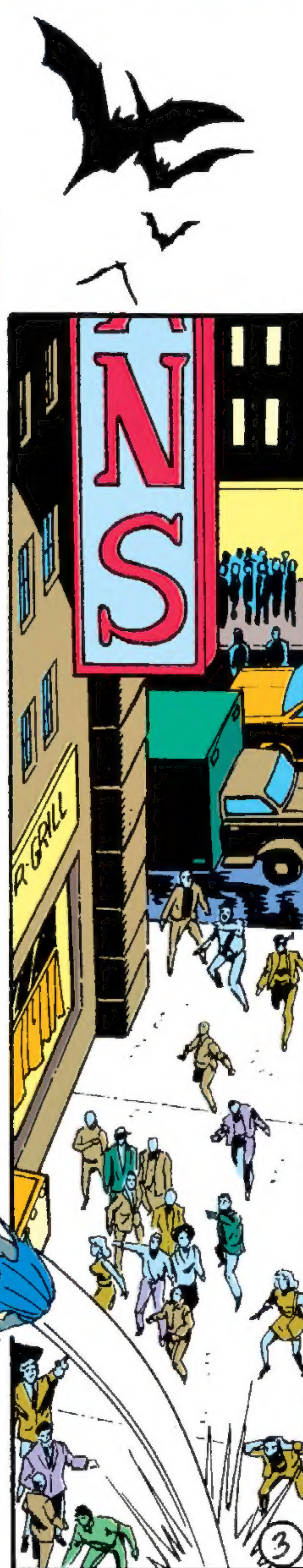
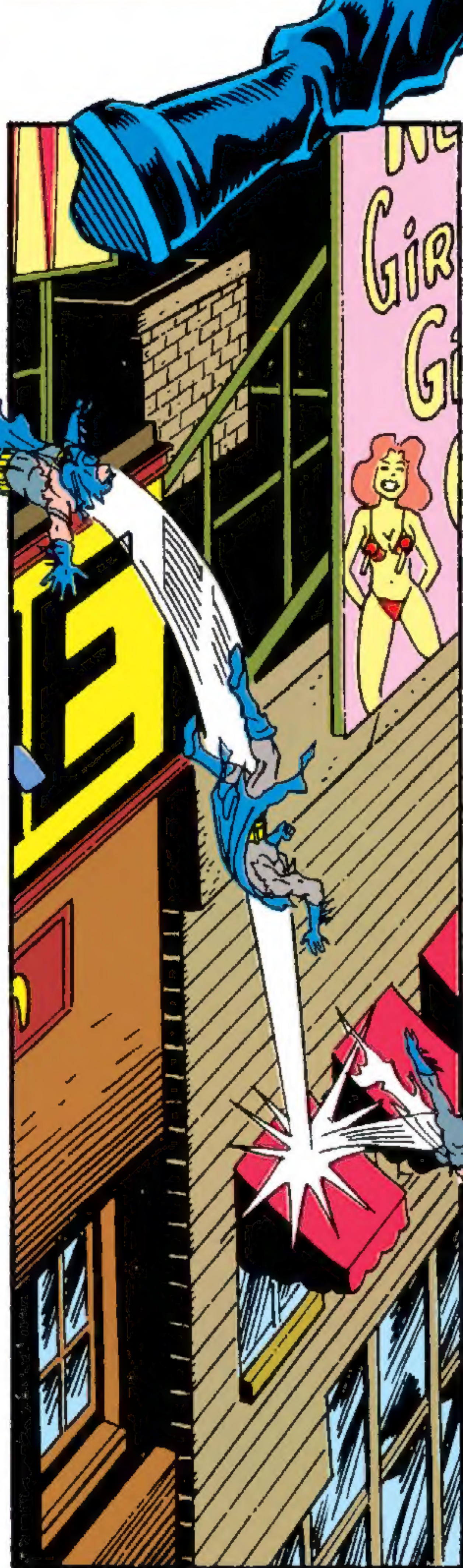
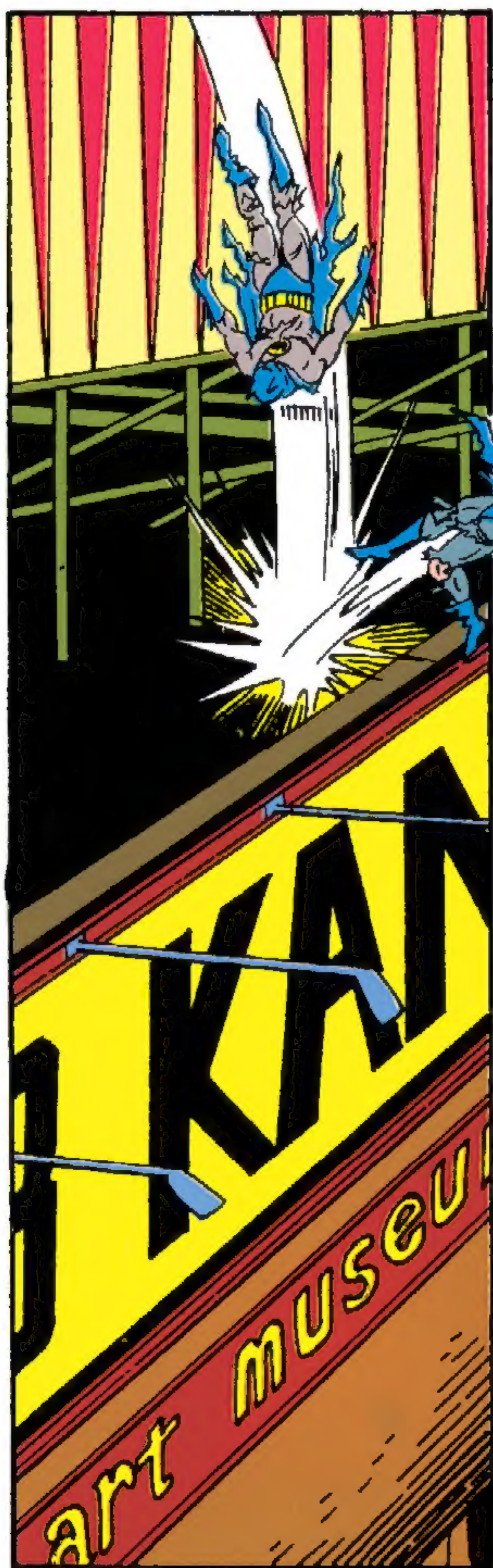
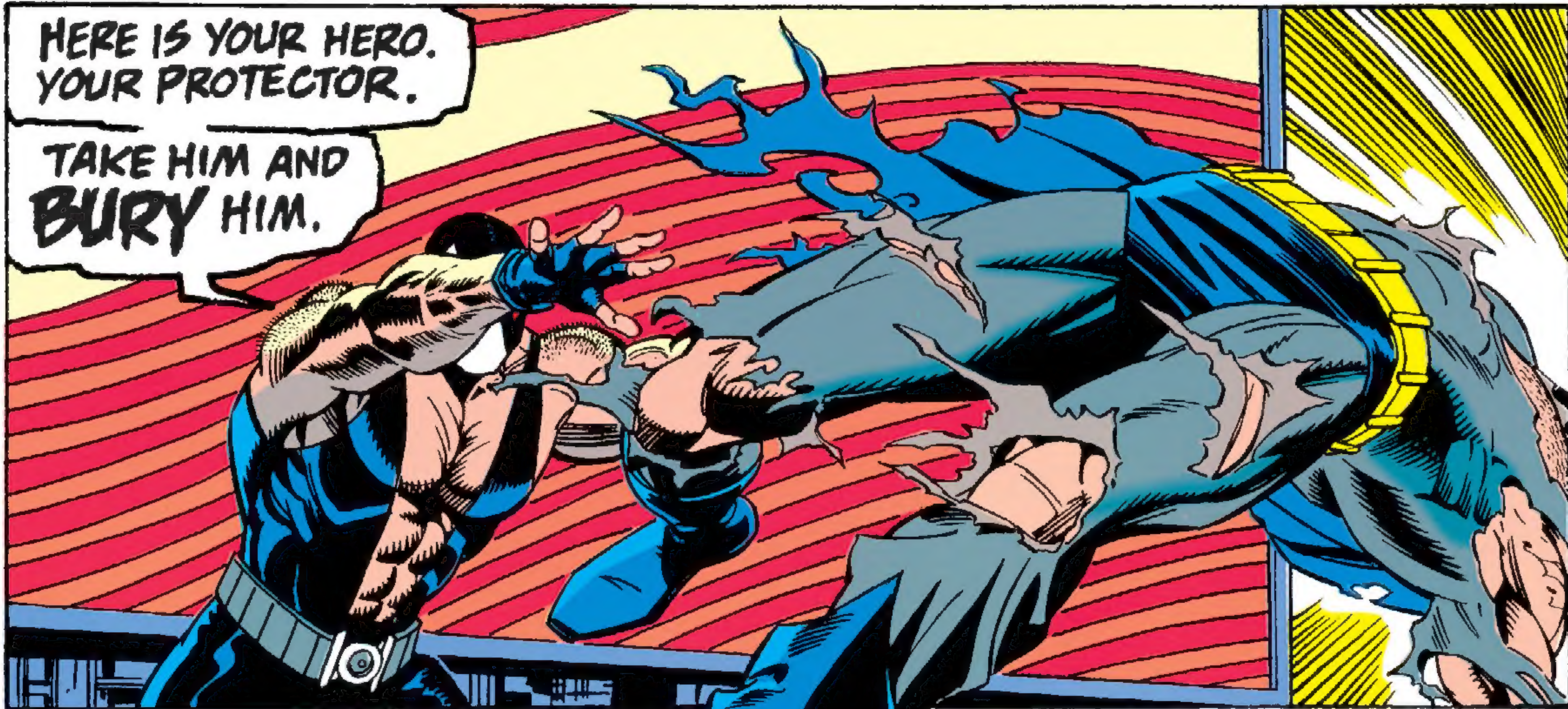
BATMAN created by BOB KANE



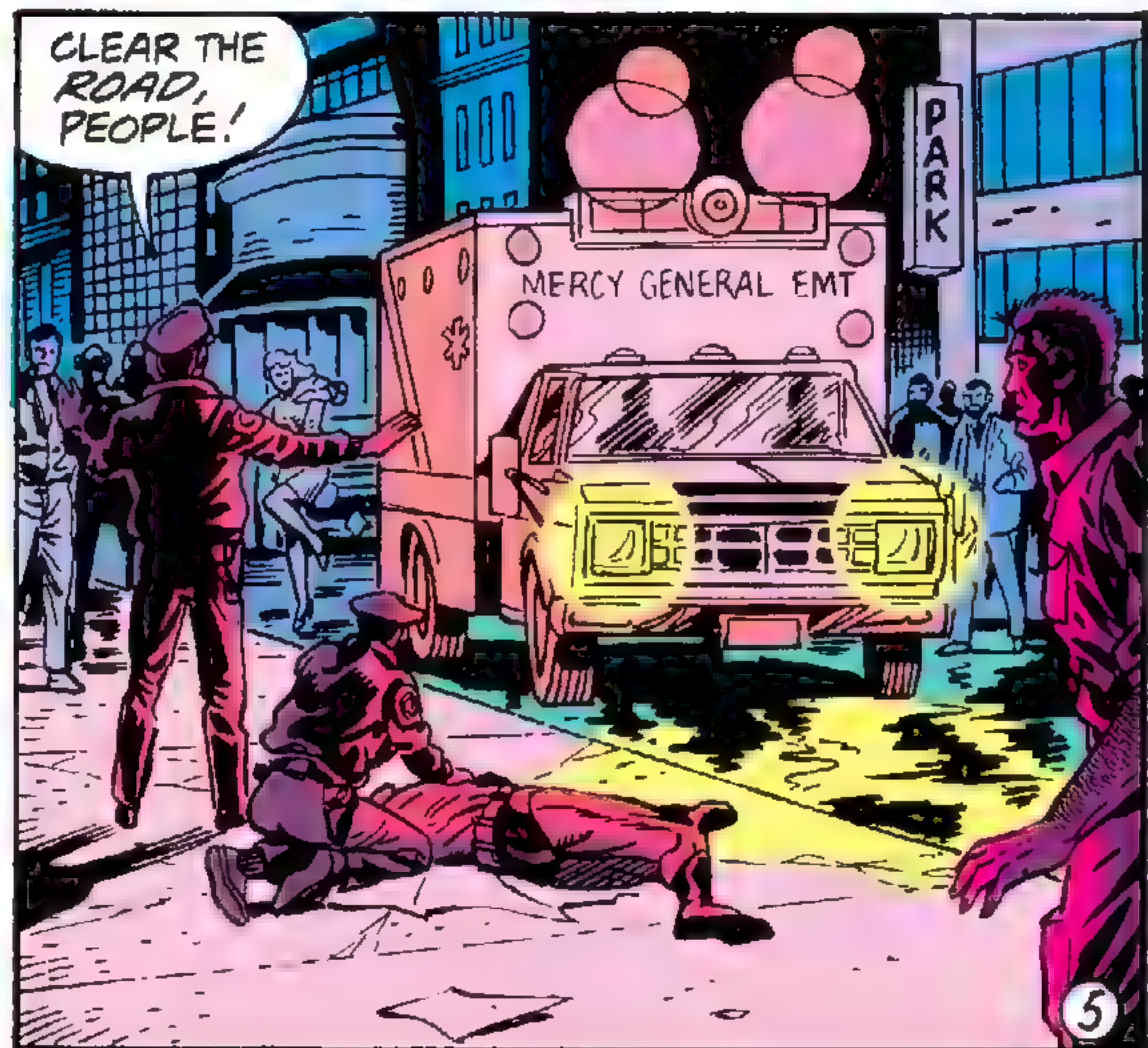
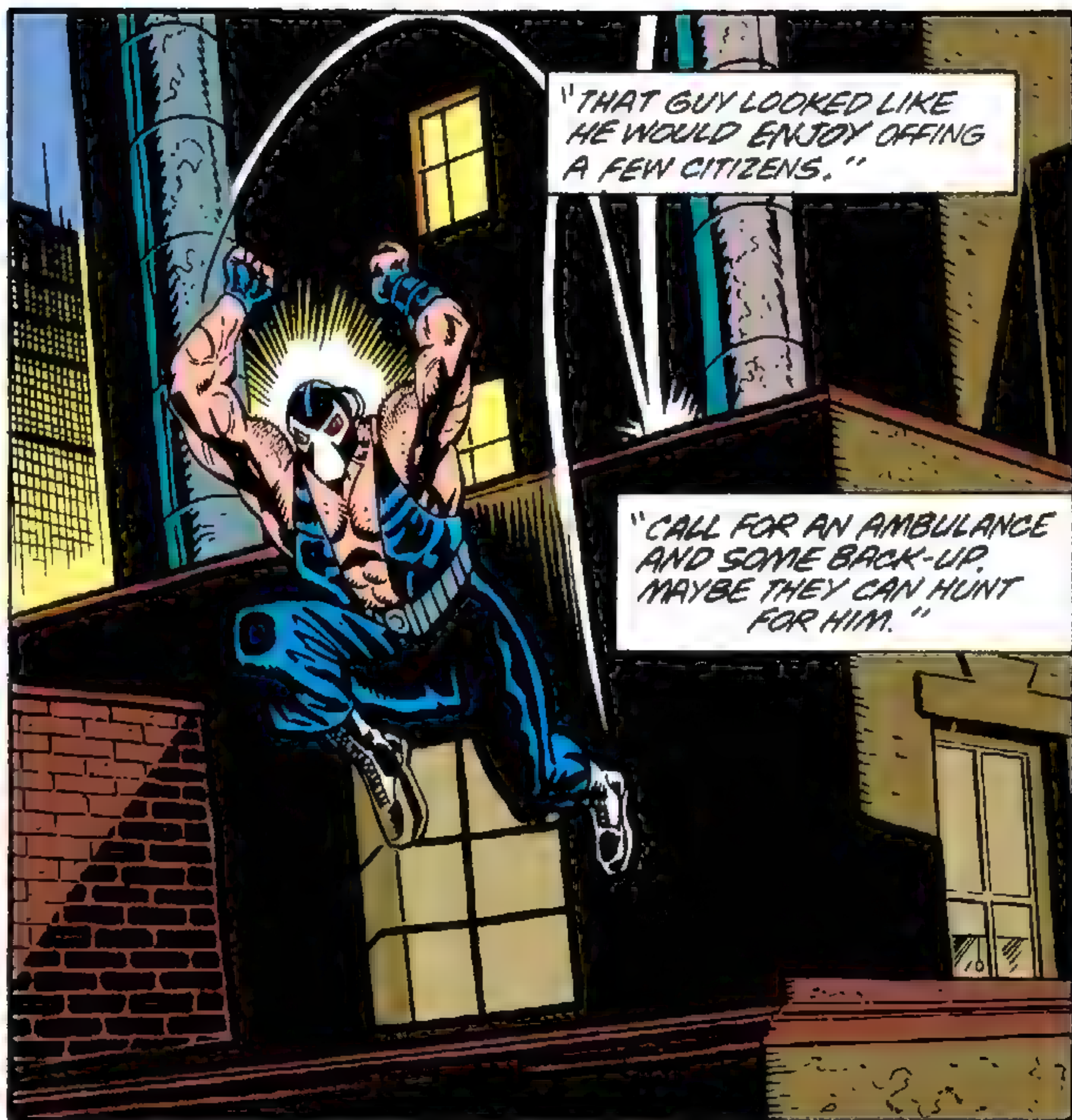
BATMAN IS
NO MORE. I
HAVE DESTROYED
HIM.

I RULE
THESE
STREETS!

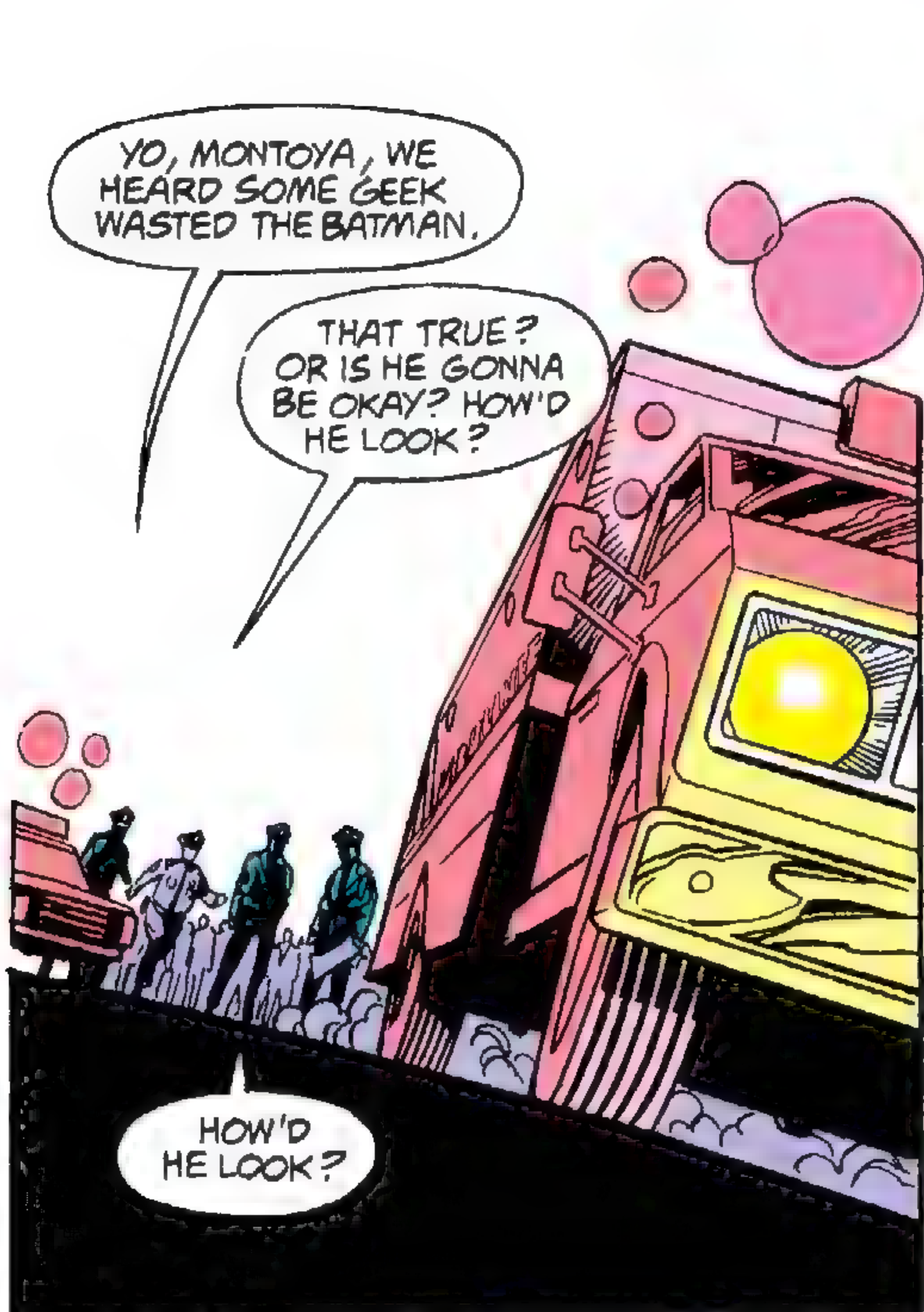
I RULE
GOTHAM.











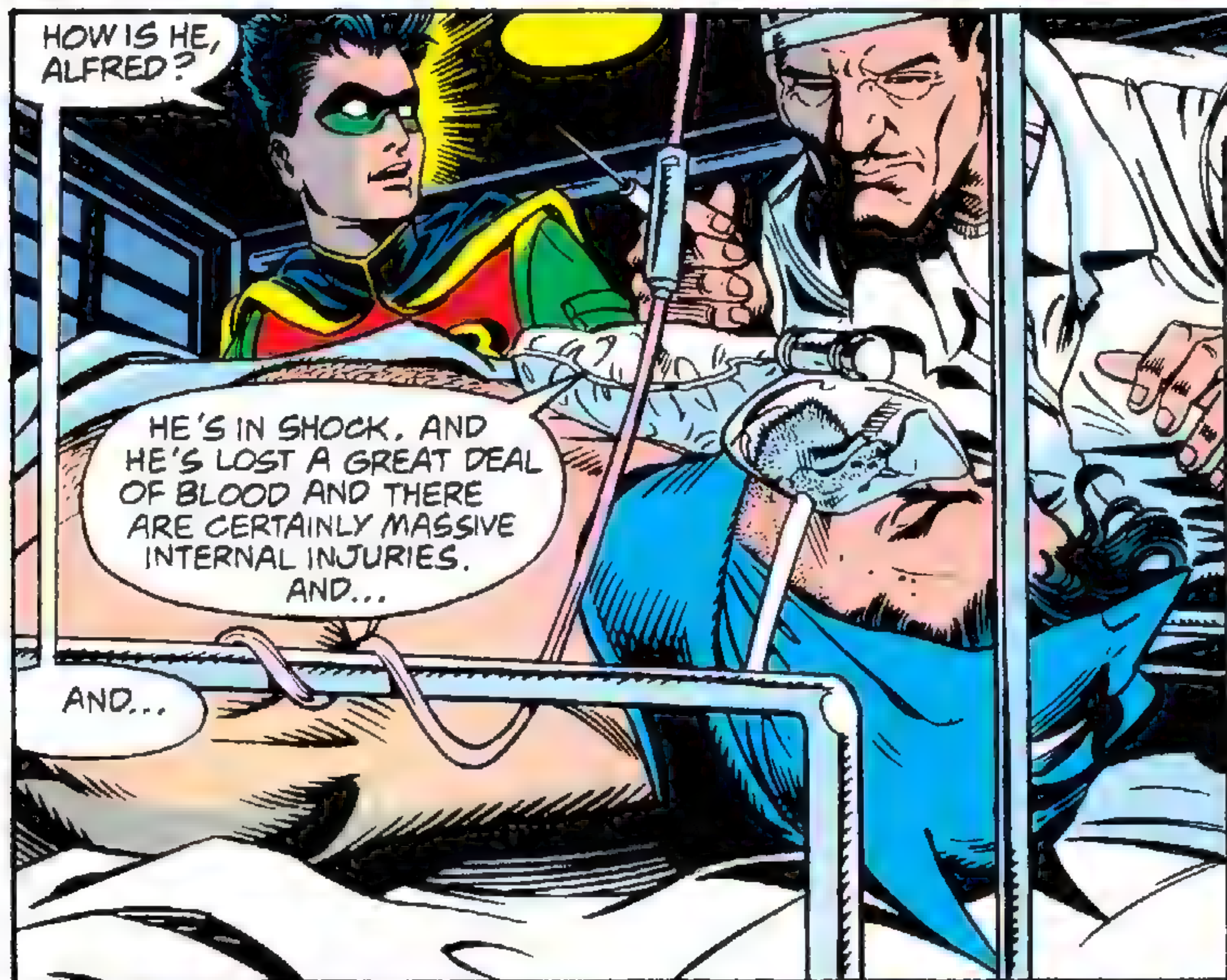
YO, MONTOYA, WE HEARD SOME GEEK WASTED THE BATMAN.

THAT TRUE? OR IS HE GONNA BE OKAY? HOW'D HE LOOK?

HOW'D HE LOOK?



HE LOOKED LIKE THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE'LL SEE HIM.



HOW IS HE, ALFRED?

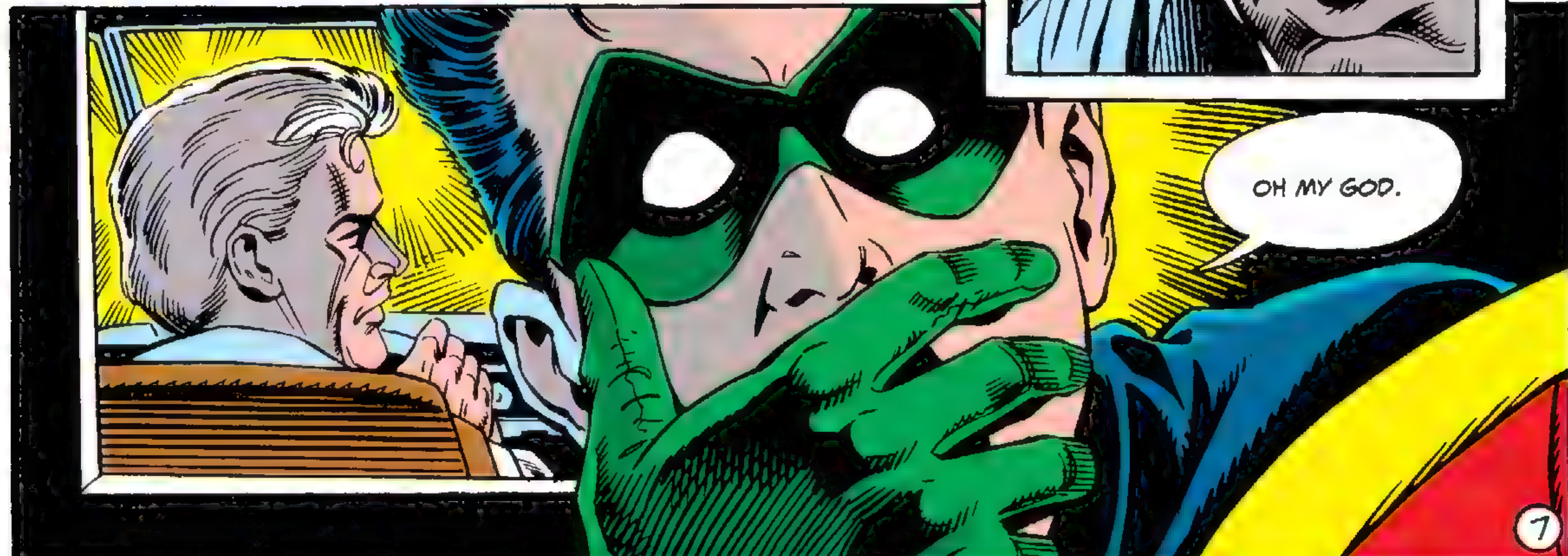
HE'S IN SHOCK, AND HE'S LOST A GREAT DEAL OF BLOOD AND THERE ARE CERTAINLY MASSIVE INTERNAL INJURIES. AND...

AND...

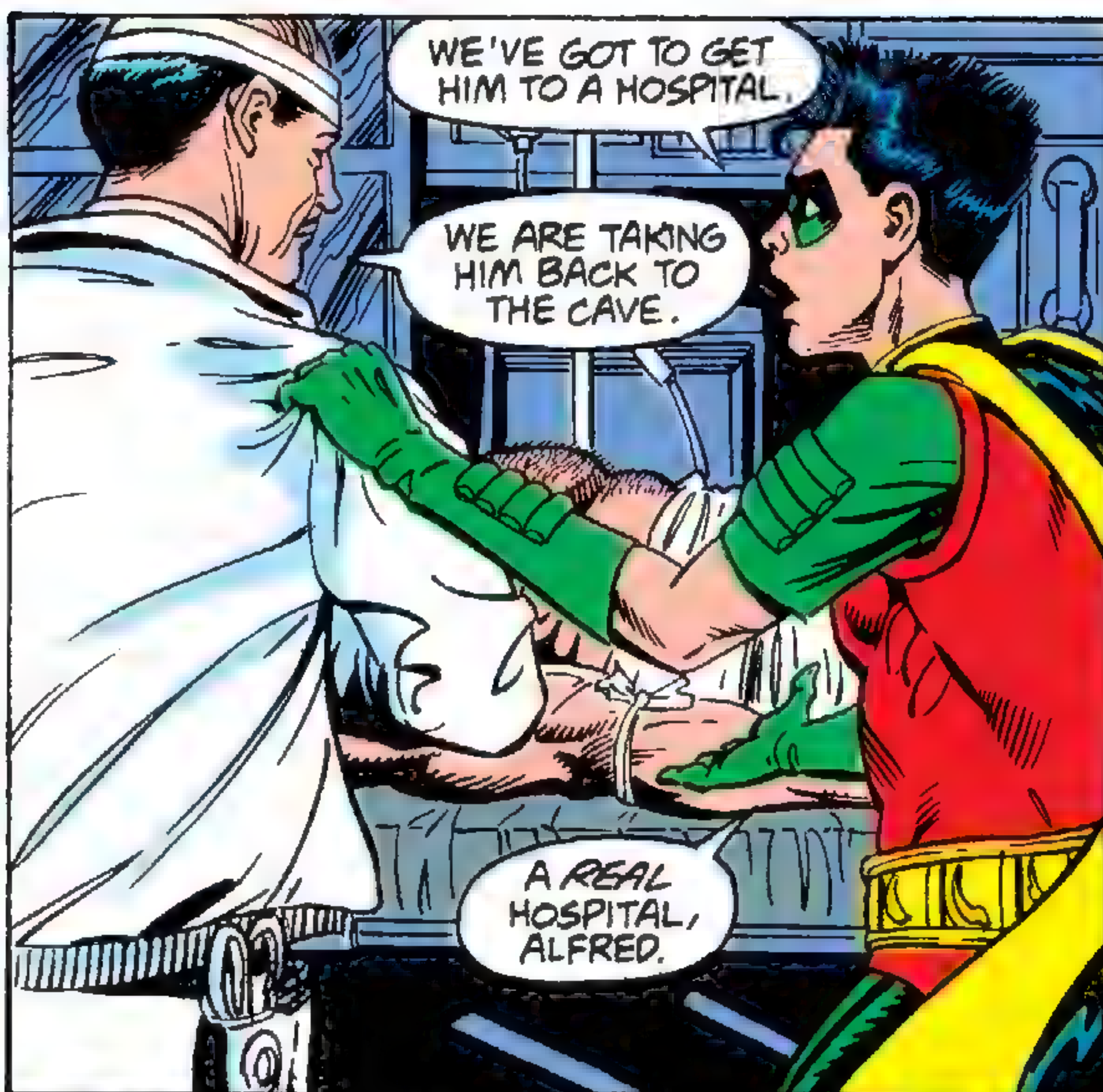


I THINK...

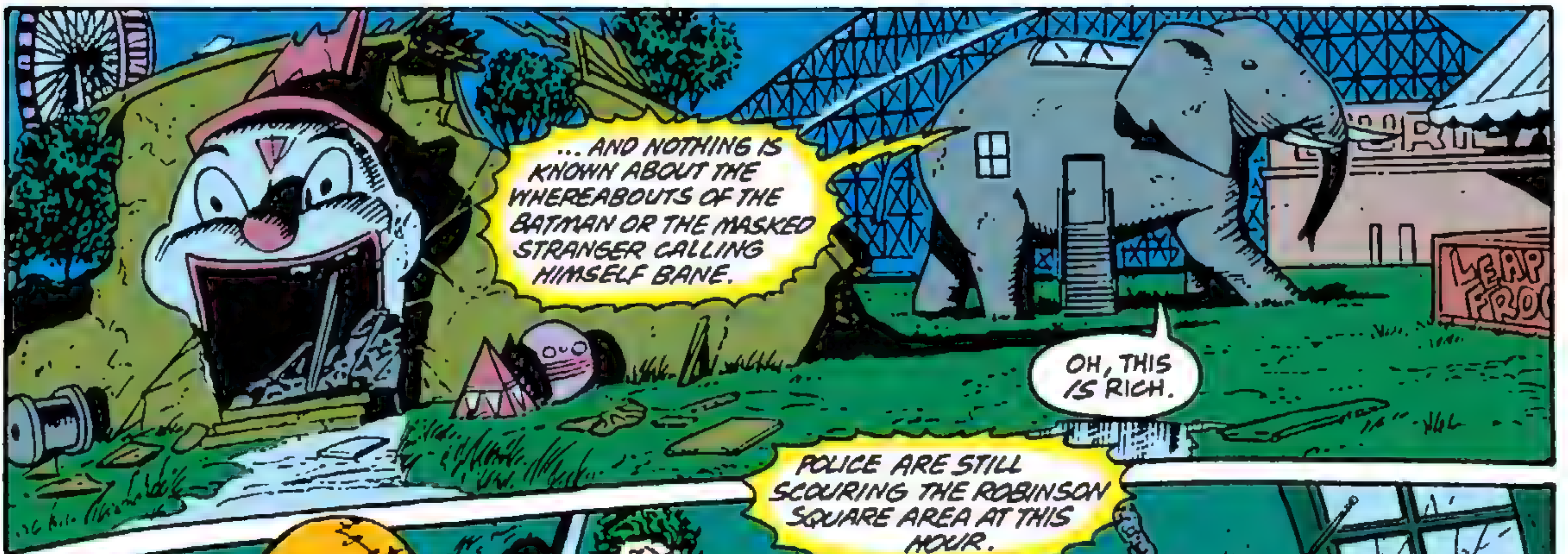
I THINK HIS BACK MAY BE...



OH MY GOD.







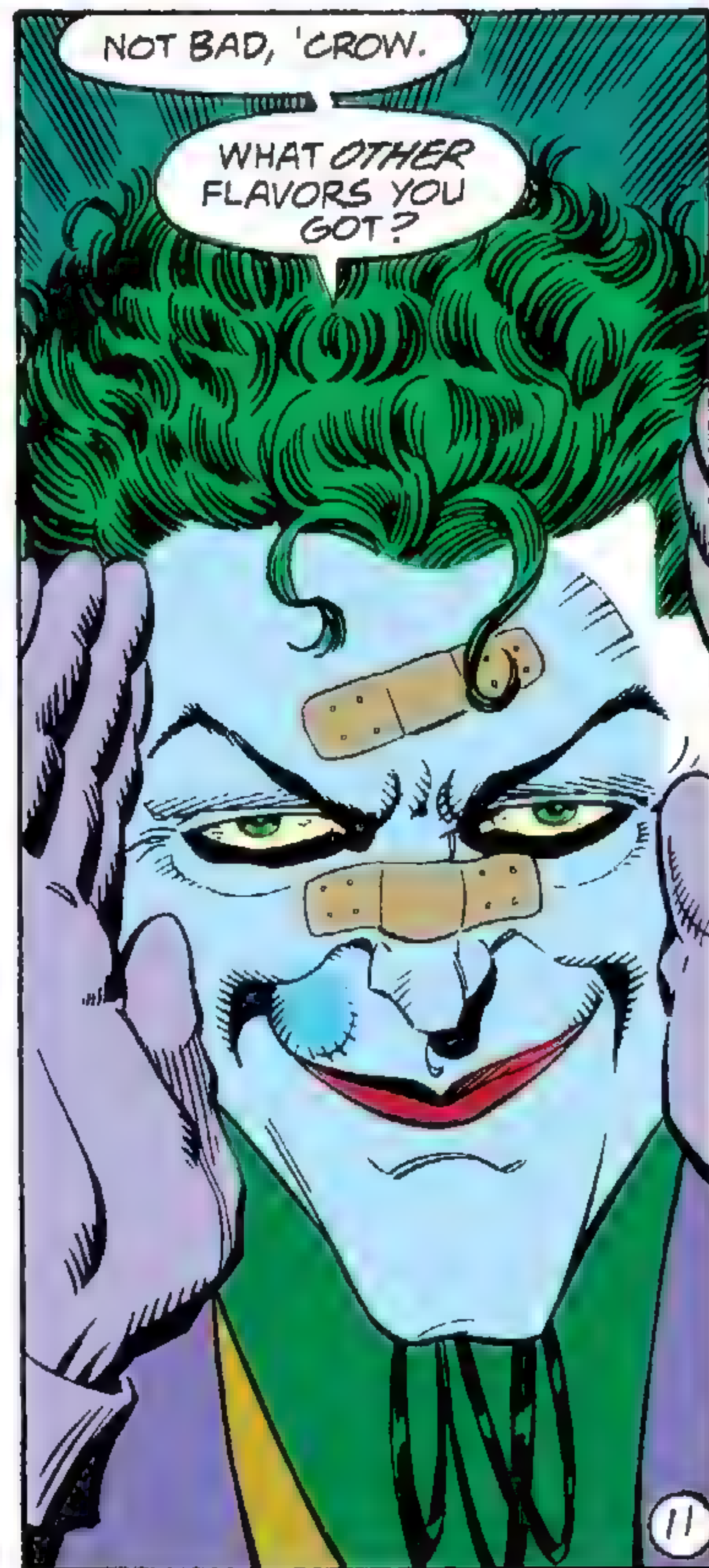
OH, THIS IS RICH.

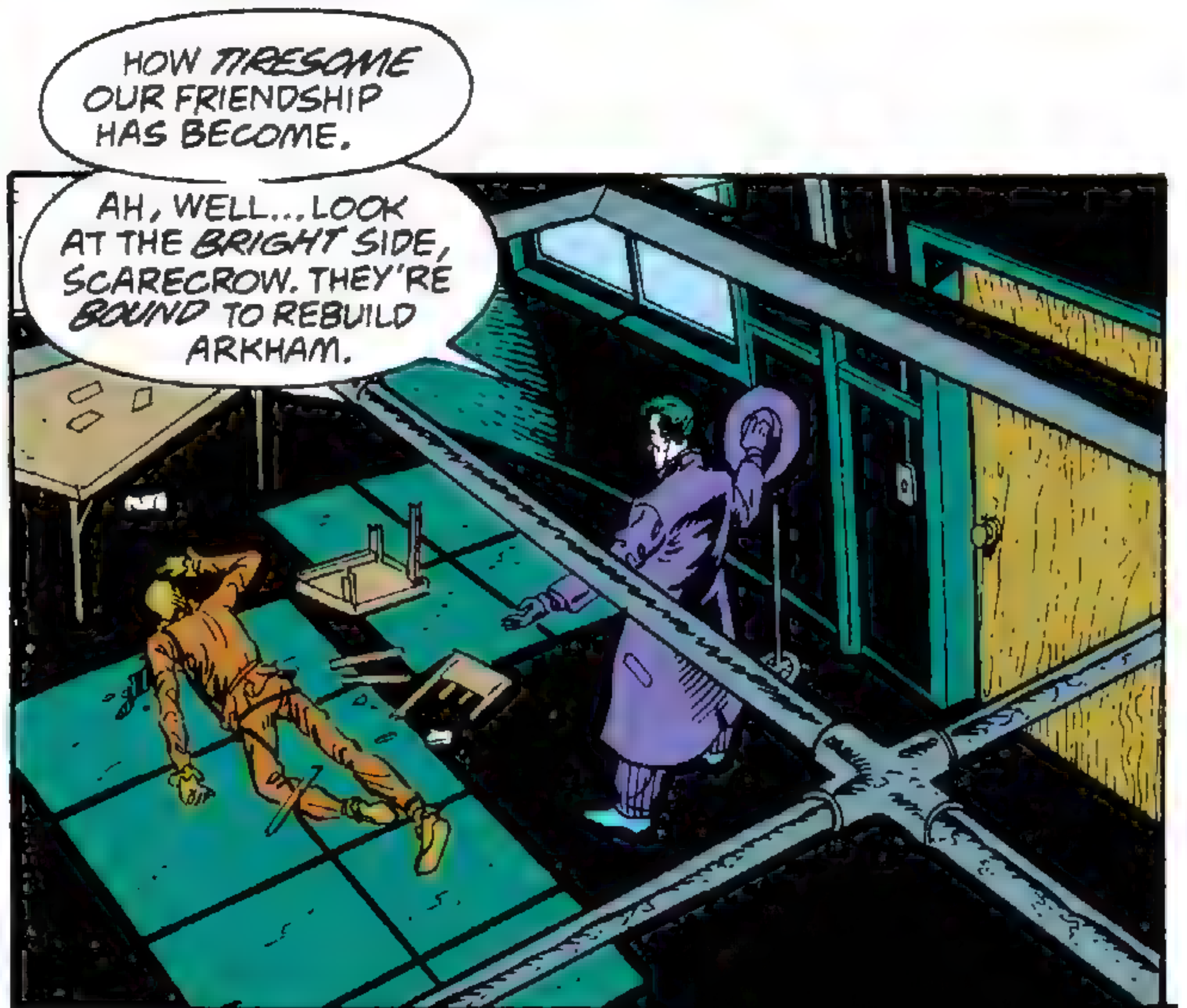
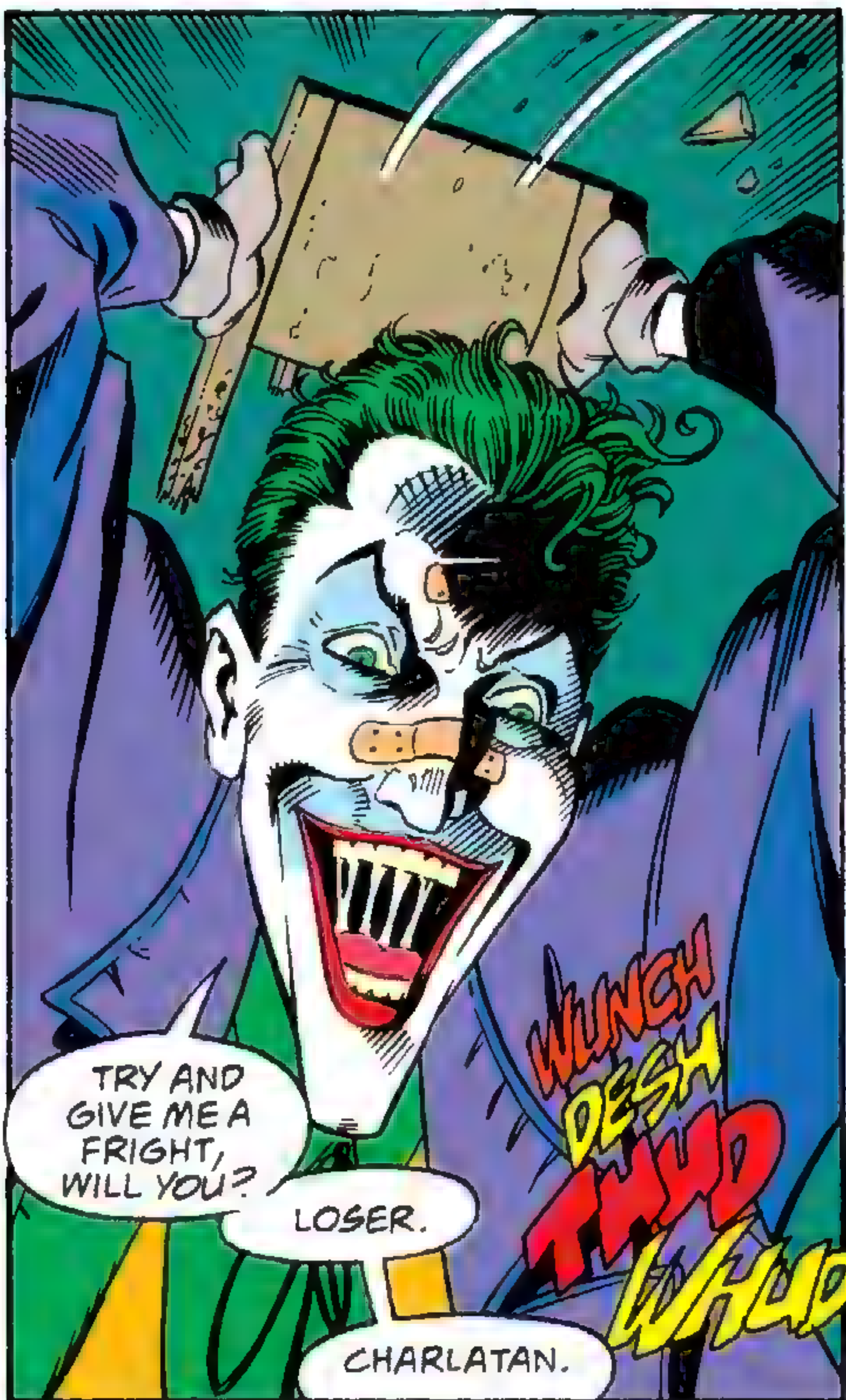
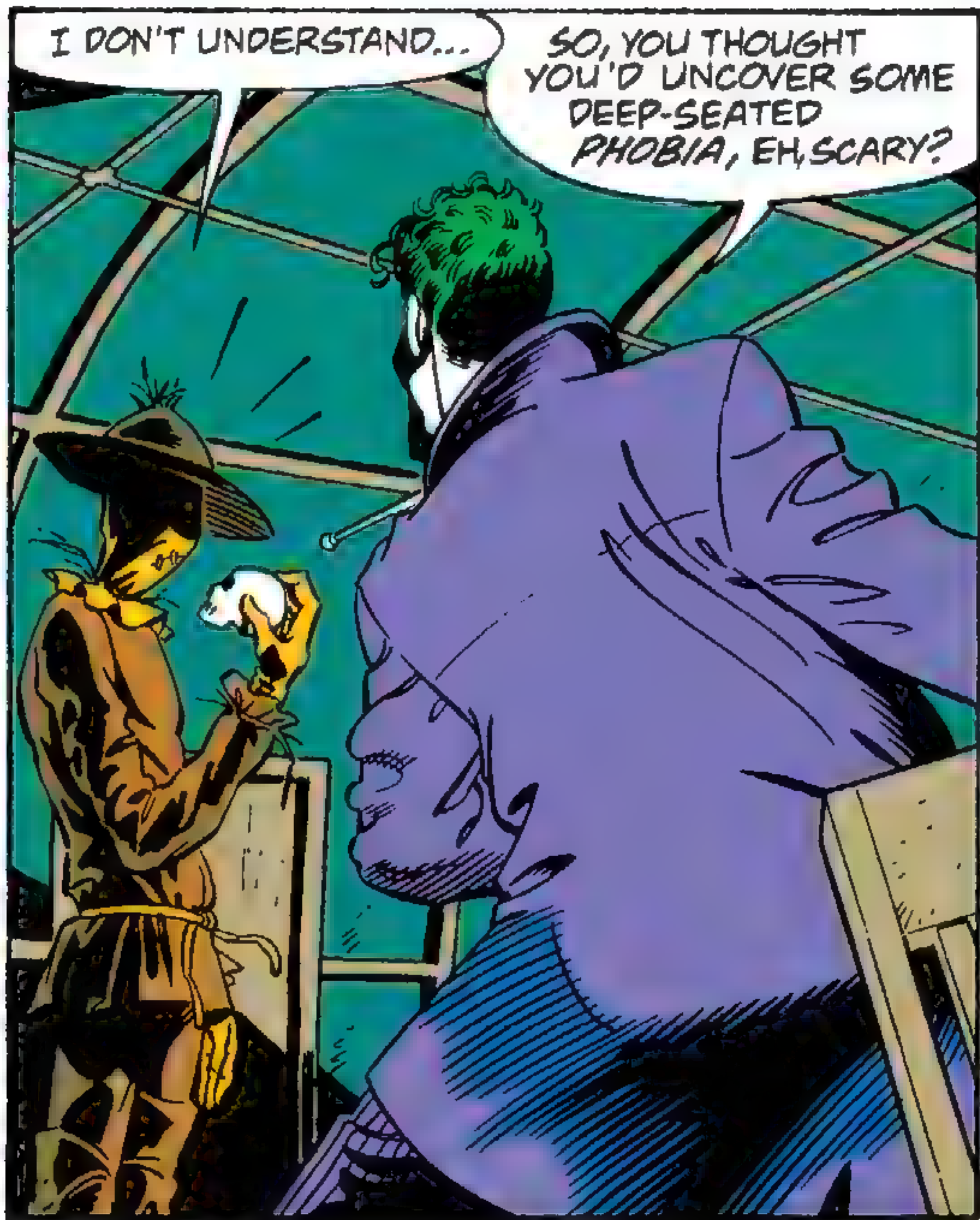


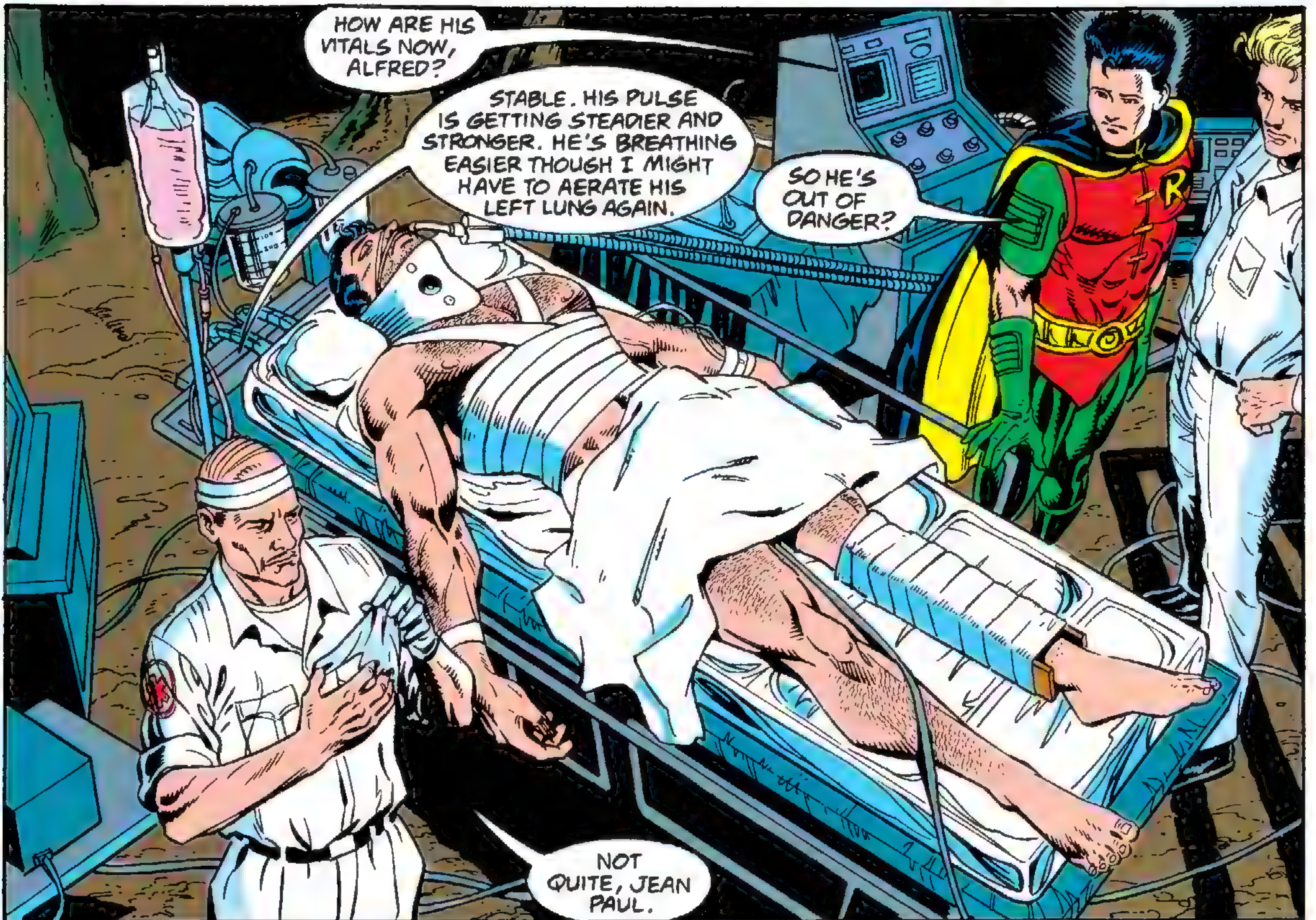
ISN'T IT IRONIC, SCARECROW? A LEGION OF BATTY'S BADDEST FOES TRY TO BRING HIM LOW AND SOME NEW ROOKIE COMES ALONG AND TRASHES HIM.

HILARIOUS.







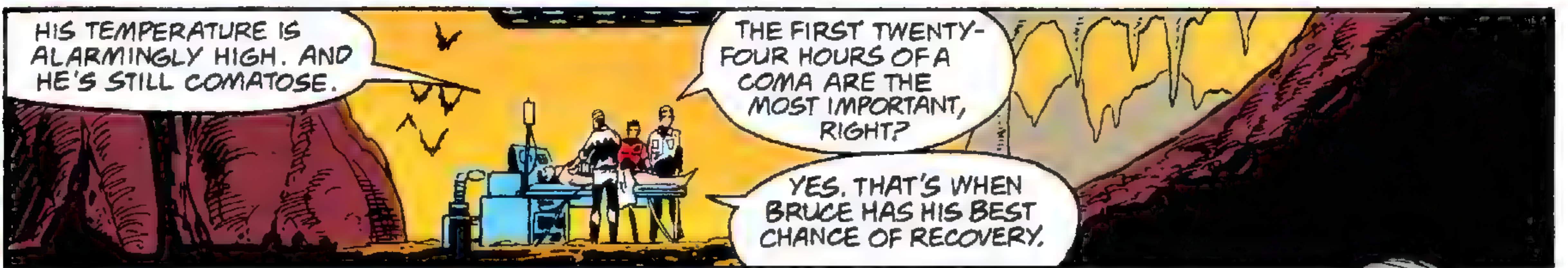


HOW ARE HIS VITALS NOW, ALFRED?

STABLE. HIS PULSE IS GETTING STEADIER AND STRONGER. HE'S BREATHING EASIER THOUGH I MIGHT HAVE TO AERATE HIS LEFT LUNG AGAIN.

SO HE'S OUT OF DANGER?

NOT QUITE, JEAN PAUL.



HIS TEMPERATURE IS ALARMINGLY HIGH. AND HE'S STILL COMATOSE.

THE FIRST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF A COMA ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT, RIGHT?

YES. THAT'S WHEN BRUCE HAS HIS BEST CHANCE OF RECOVERY.



COME ON, BRUCE. FIGHT IT.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME OUT OF THIS YOU HAVE TO FIGHT.

HE'LL NEED MORE THAN HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT, TIM. HIS FEVER WON'T GO DOWN UNLESS I CAN STOP THE SWELLING IN HIS SPINAL TISSUE.

AND CAN YOU DO THAT?

NOT WITH WHAT I HAVE HERE.

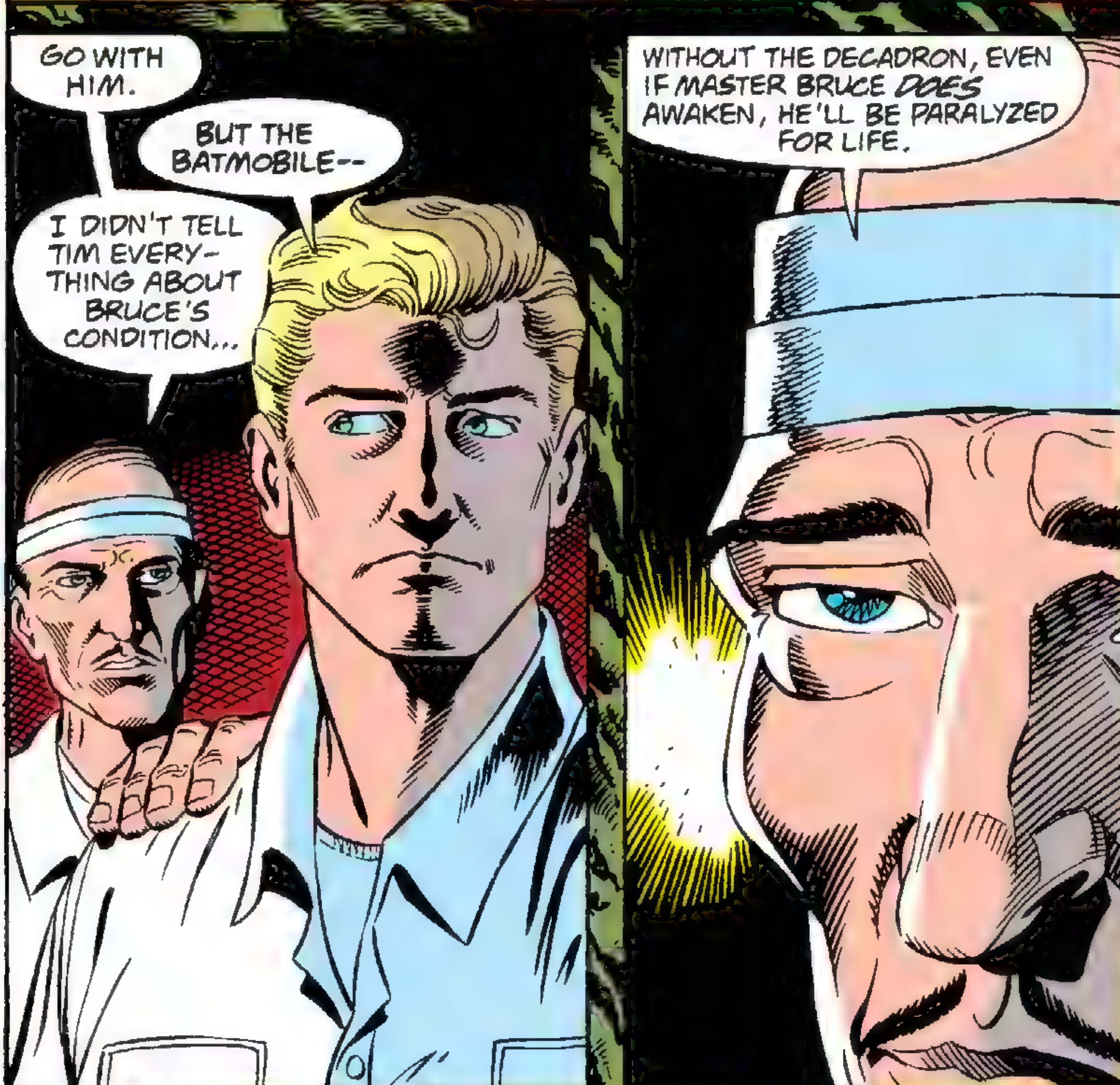


WE'LL NEED A DRUG CALLED DECADRON. IT'S SPECIFICALLY MADE FOR THE TREATMENT OF SPINAL TRAUMA.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO REDUCE THE SWELLING. BUT ONLY IF IT'S ADMINISTERED IN THE NEXT HOUR.

THEN WE'LL GET SOME. PAUL, WE'LL TAKE THE BATMOBILE.

I--

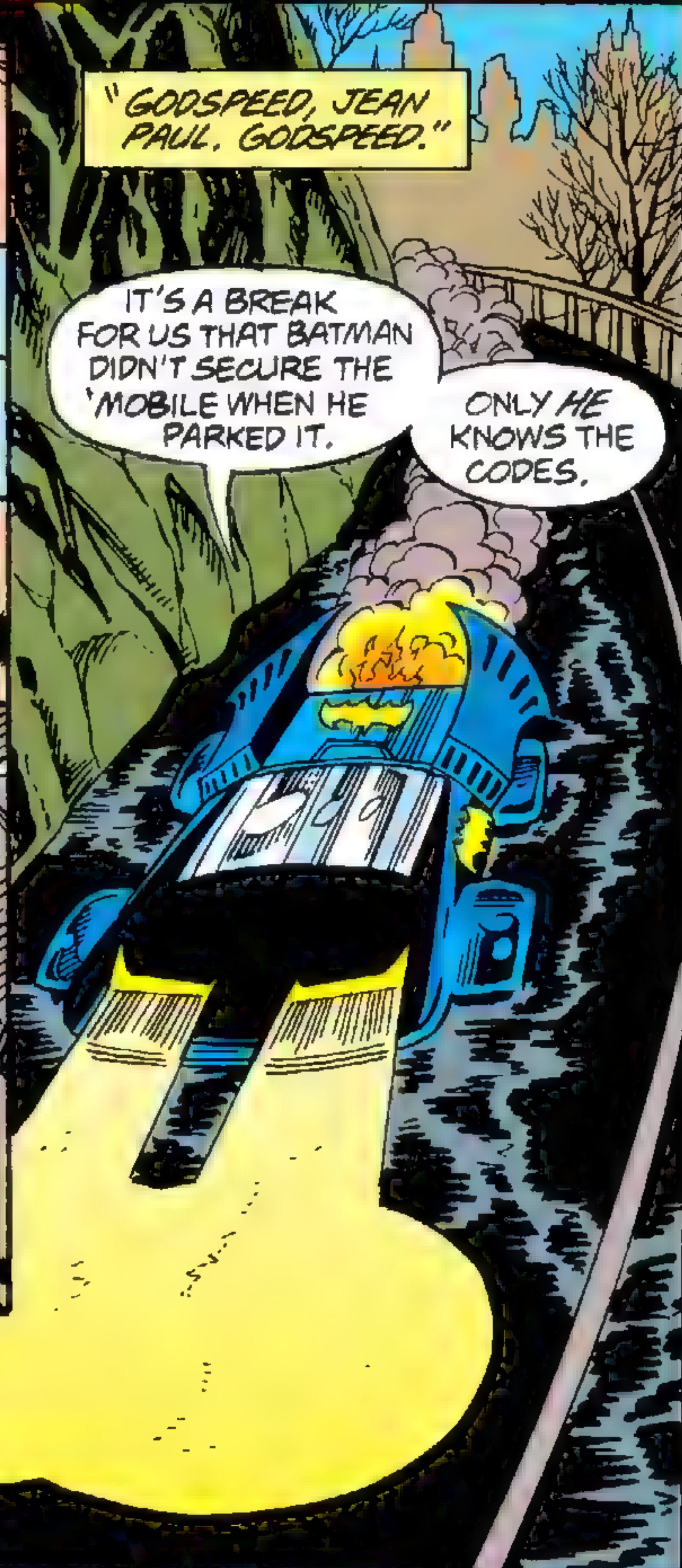


GO WITH HIM.

BUT THE BATMOBILE--

I DIDN'T TELL TIM EVERYTHING ABOUT BRUCE'S CONDITION...

WITHOUT THE DECADRON, EVEN IF MASTER BRUCE DOES AWAKEN, HE'LL BE PARALYZED FOR LIFE.



"GODSPEED, JEAN PAUL. GODSPEED."

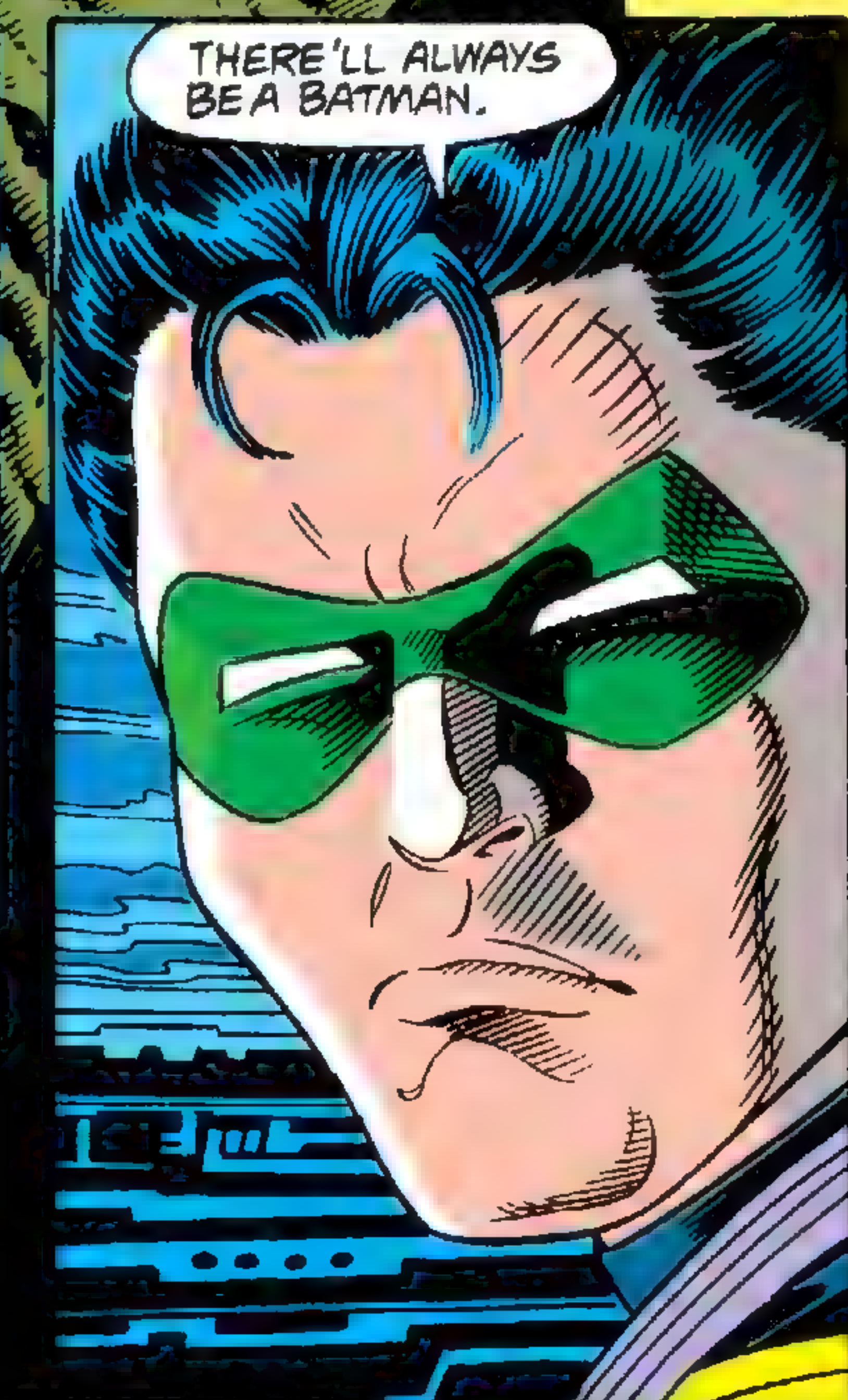
IT'S A BREAK FOR US THAT BATMAN DIDN'T SECURE THE 'MOBILE WHEN HE PARKED IT.

ONLY HE KNOWS THE CODES.



YOU KNOW, IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU PREPARED YOURSELF FOR THE WORST EVENTUALITY.

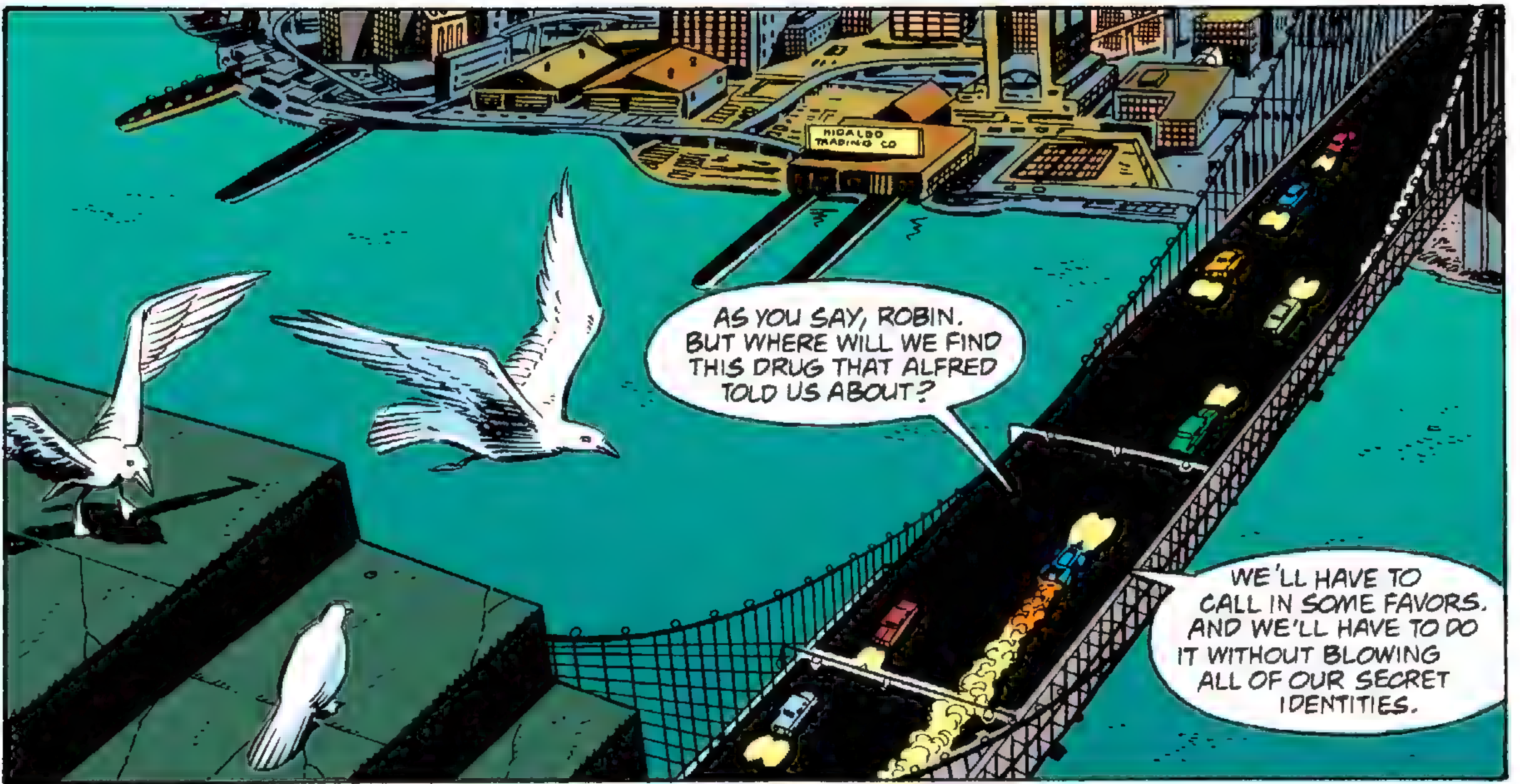
DON'T SAY IT, AZRAEL. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.



THERE'LL ALWAYS BE A BATMAN.

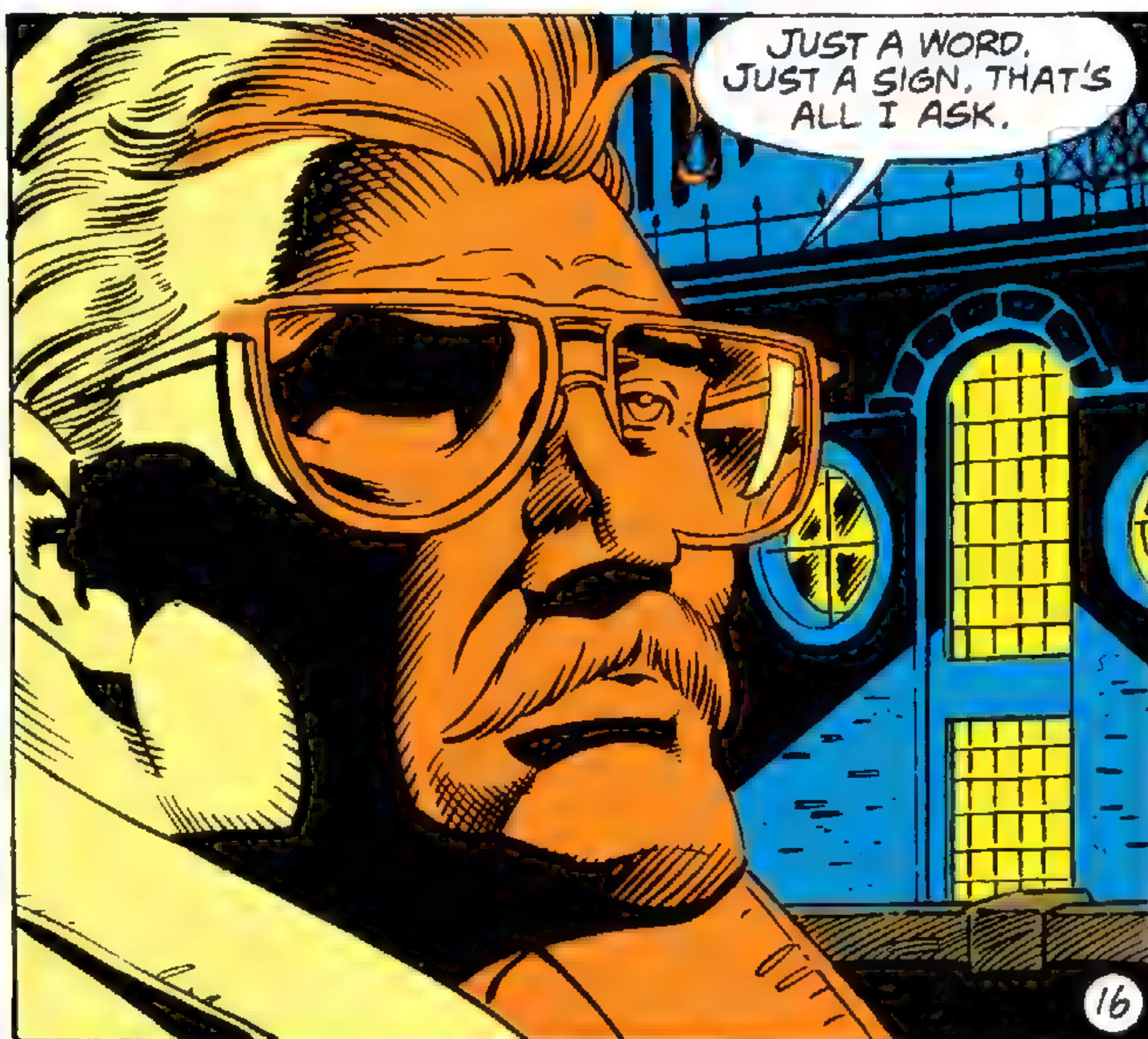
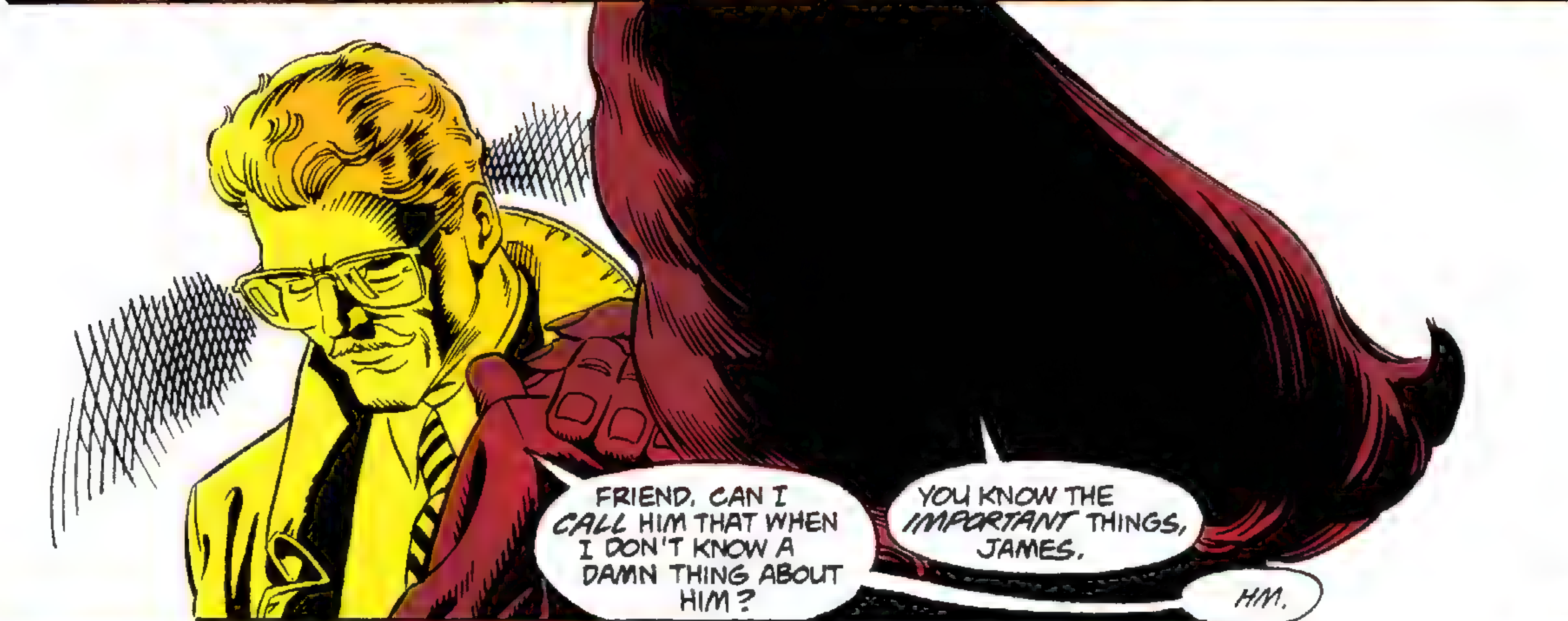


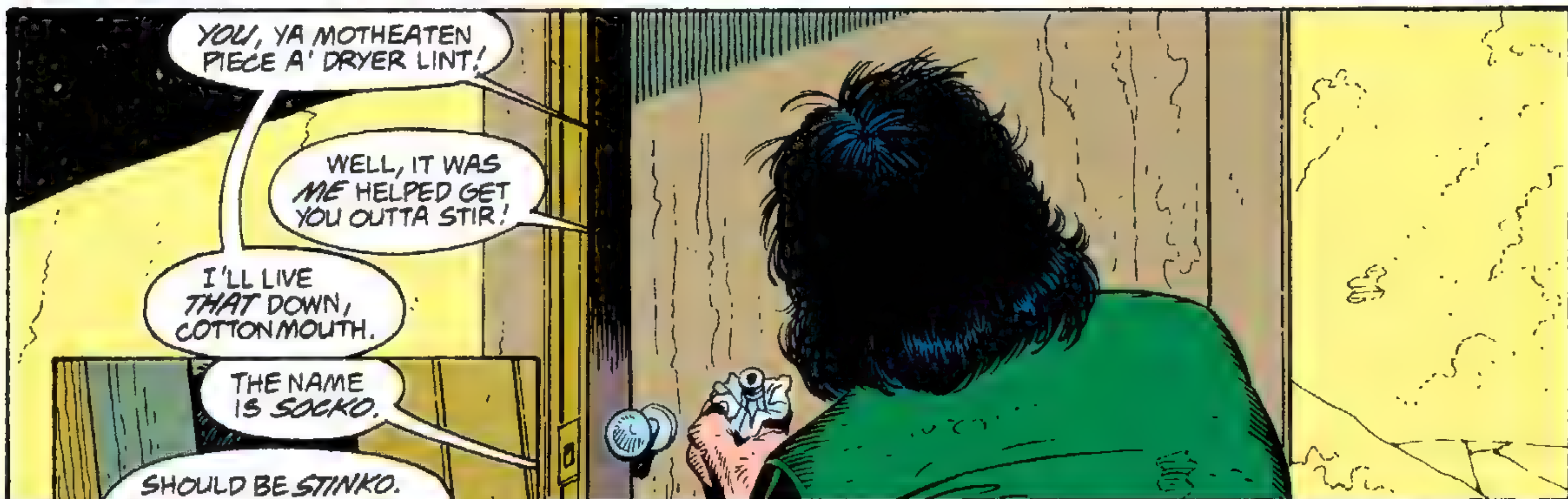
ALWAYS.

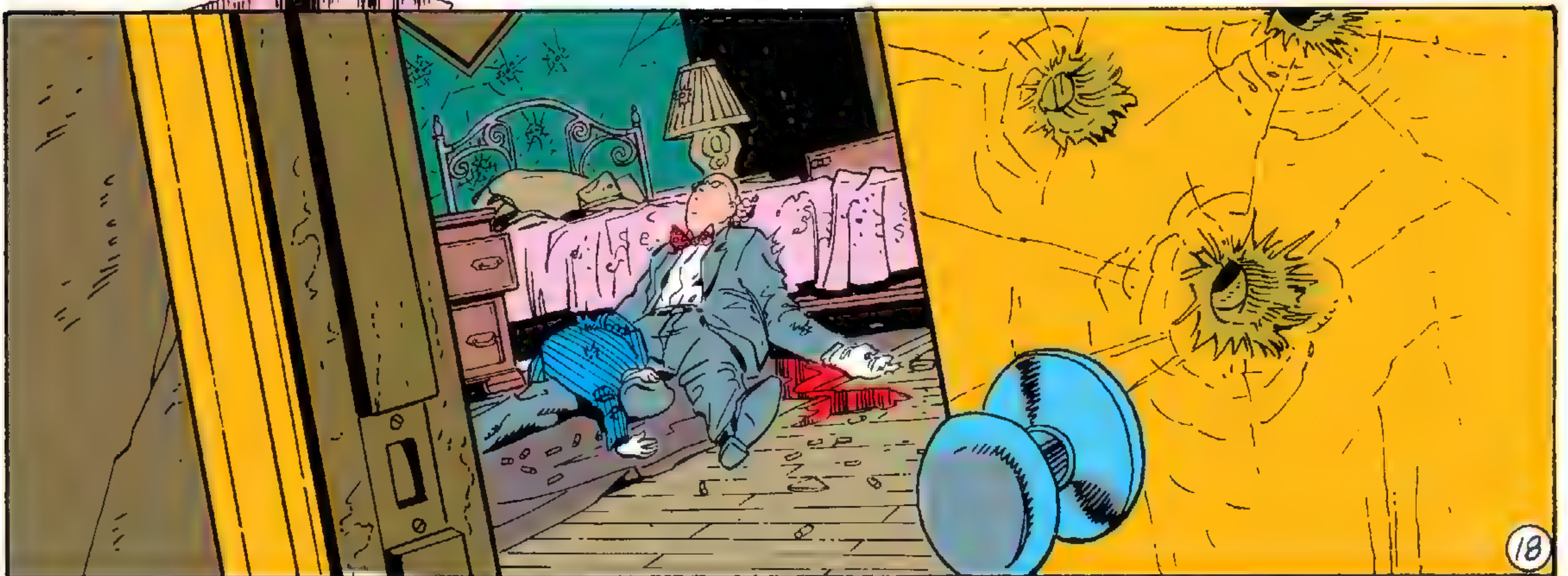
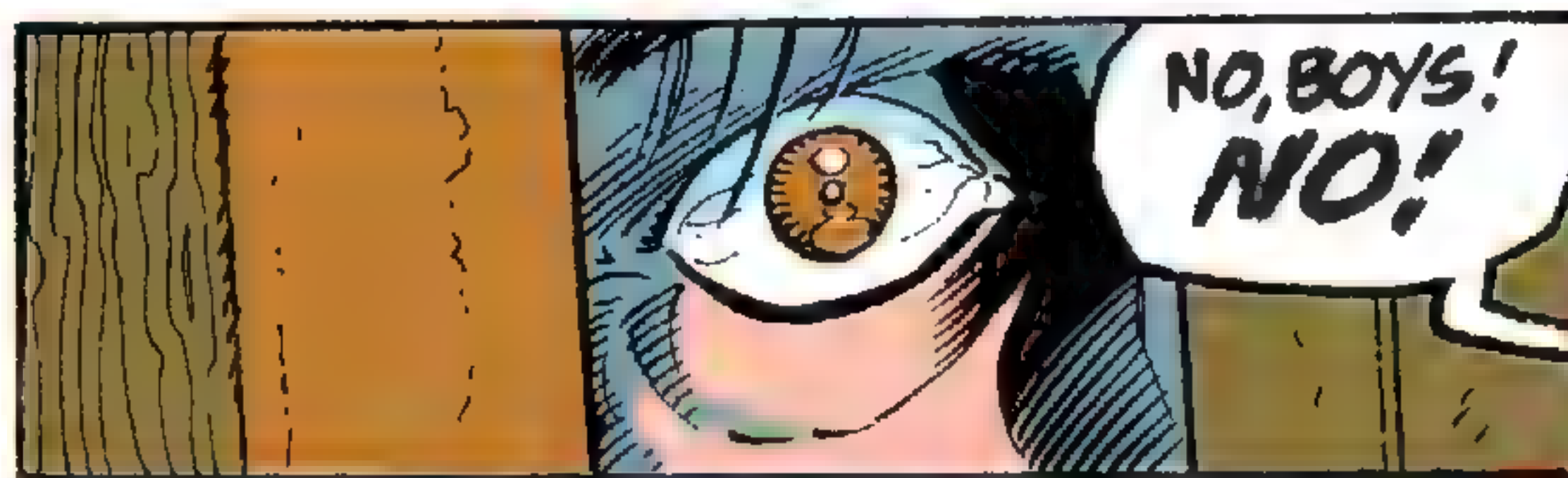
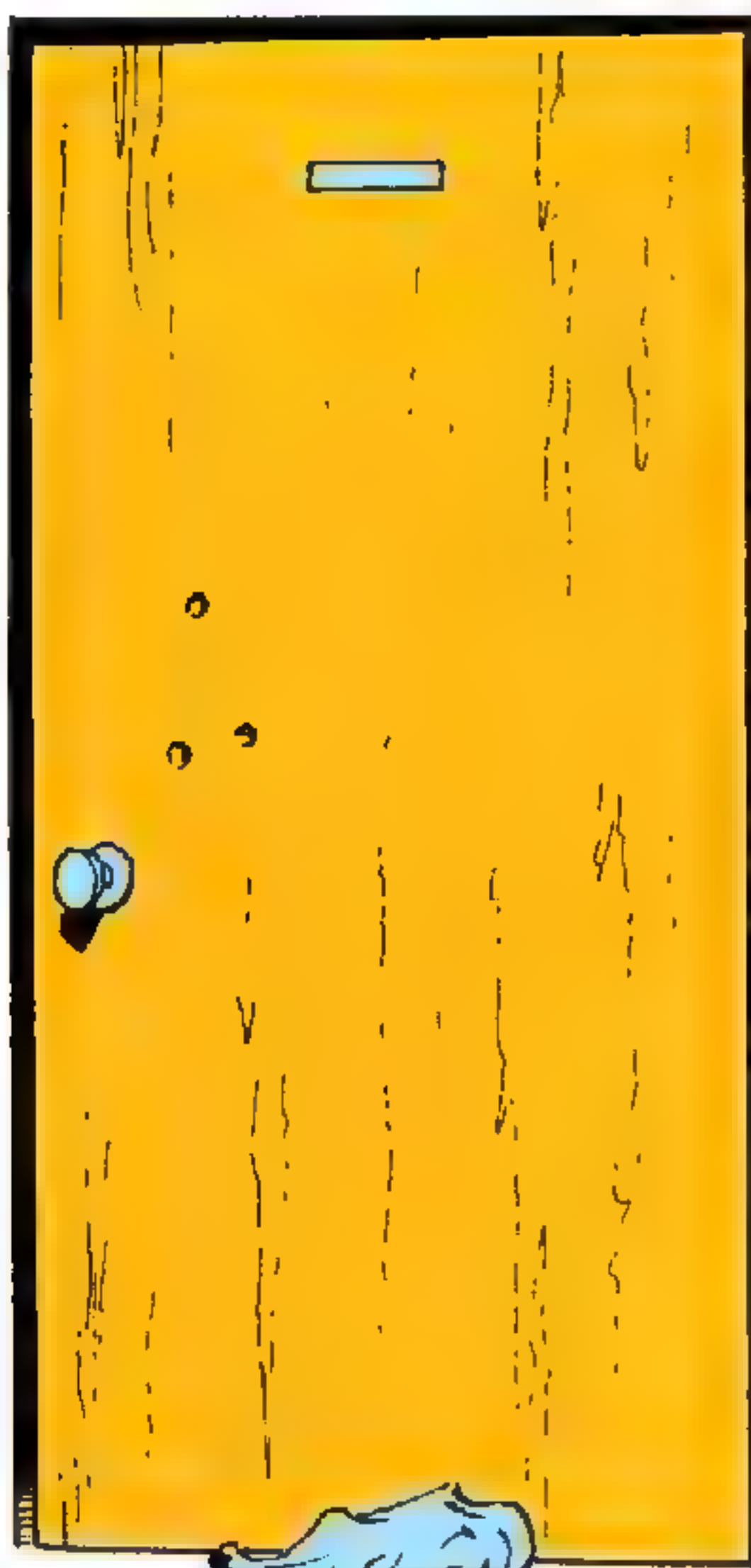
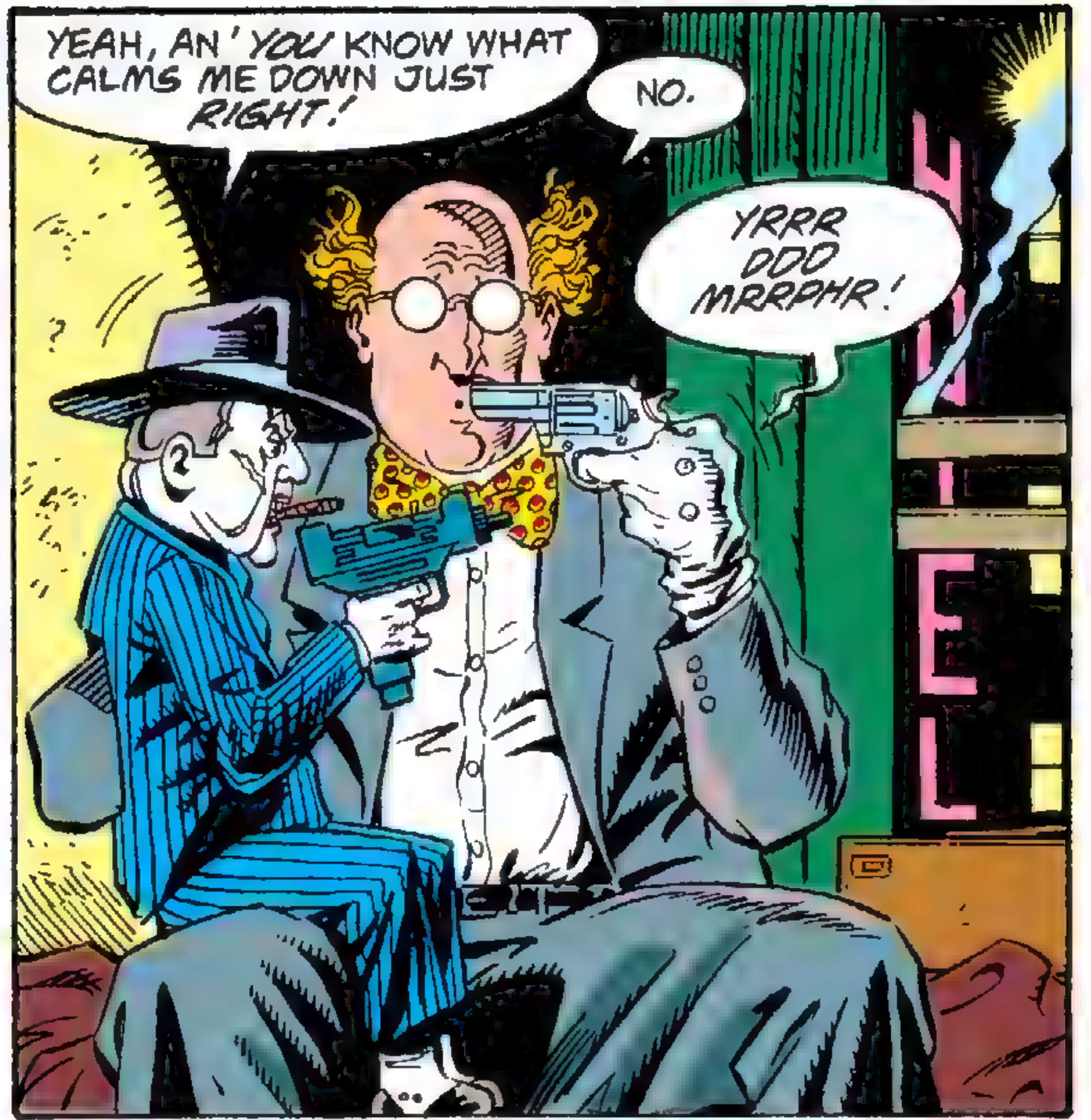


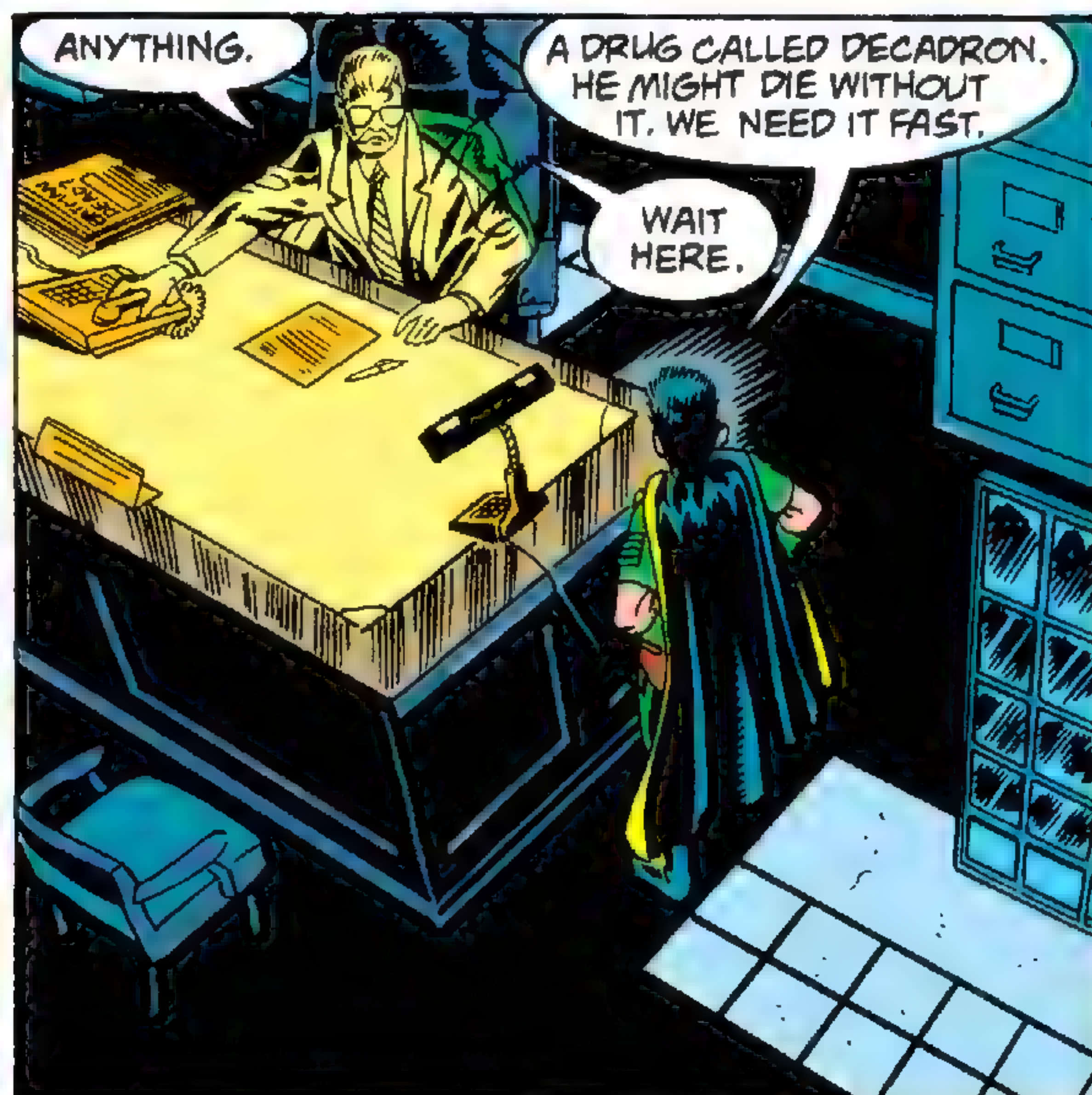
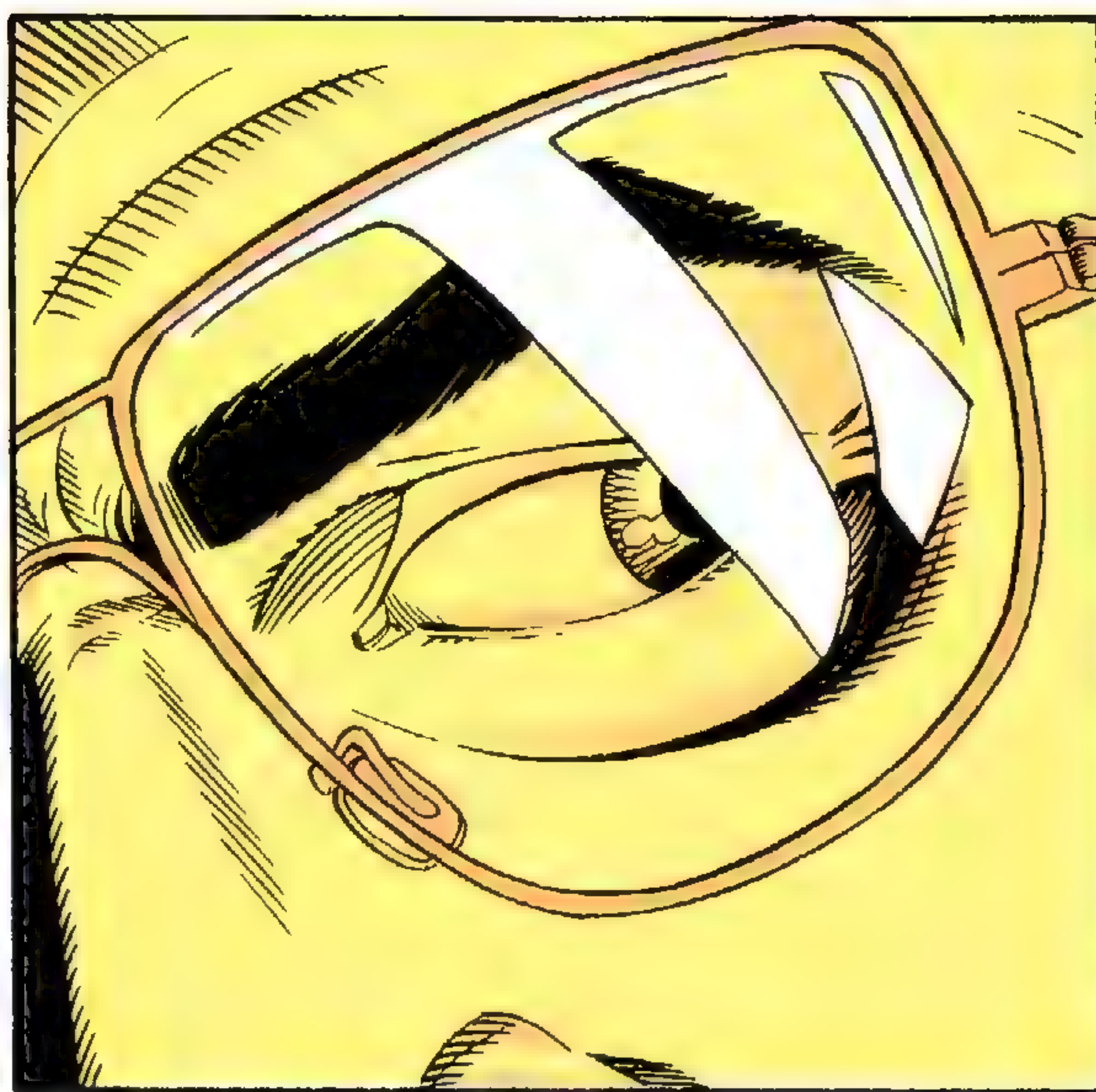
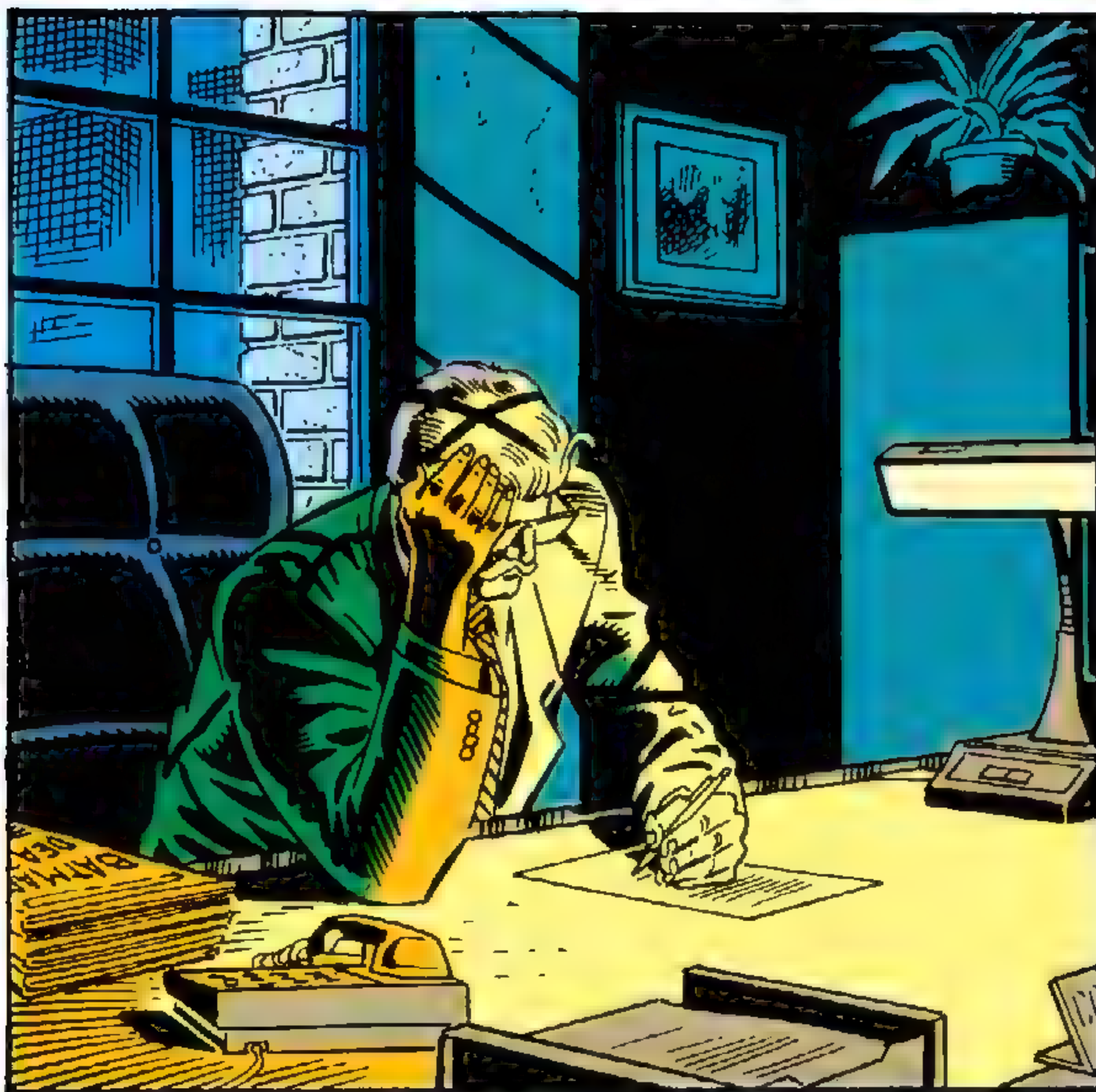
WE'LL HAVE TO
CALL IN SOME FAVORS.
AND WE'LL HAVE TO DO
IT WITHOUT BLOWING
ALL OF OUR SECRET
IDENTITIES.

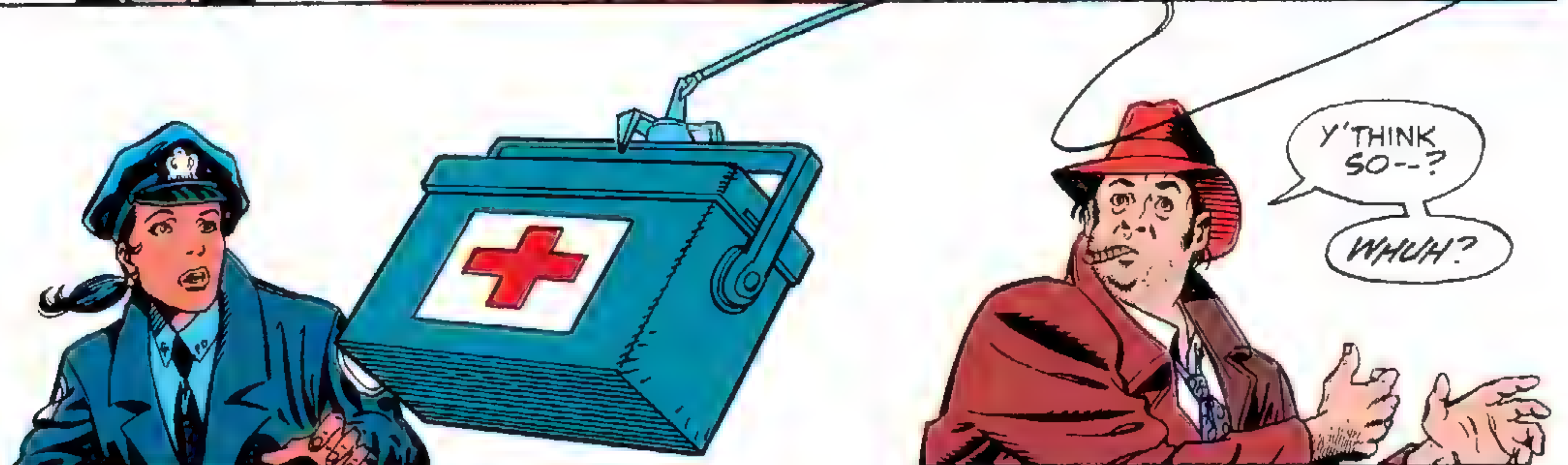
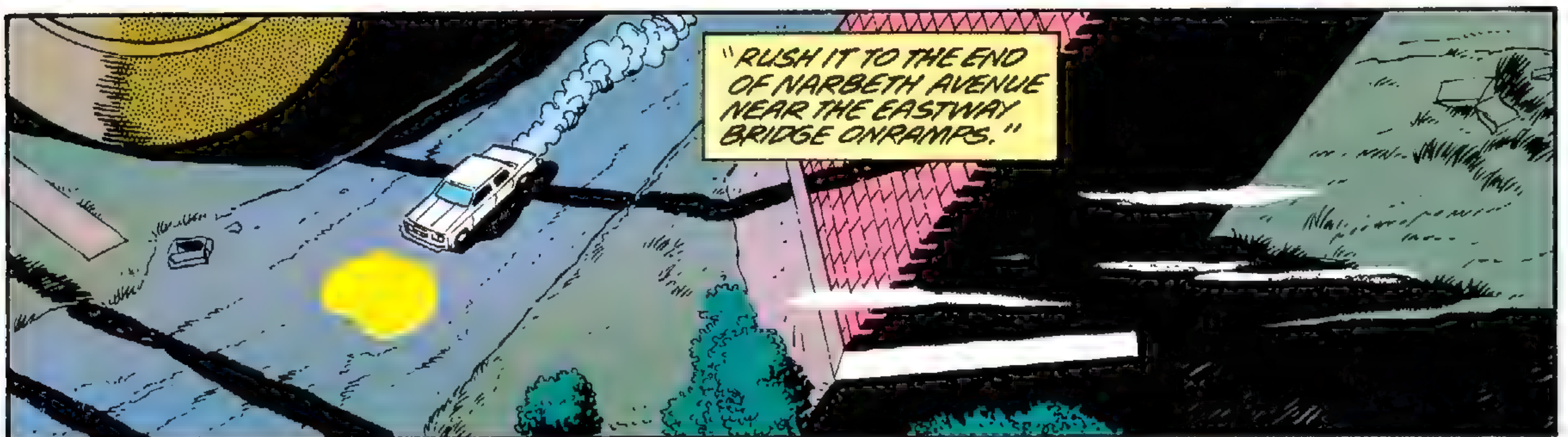
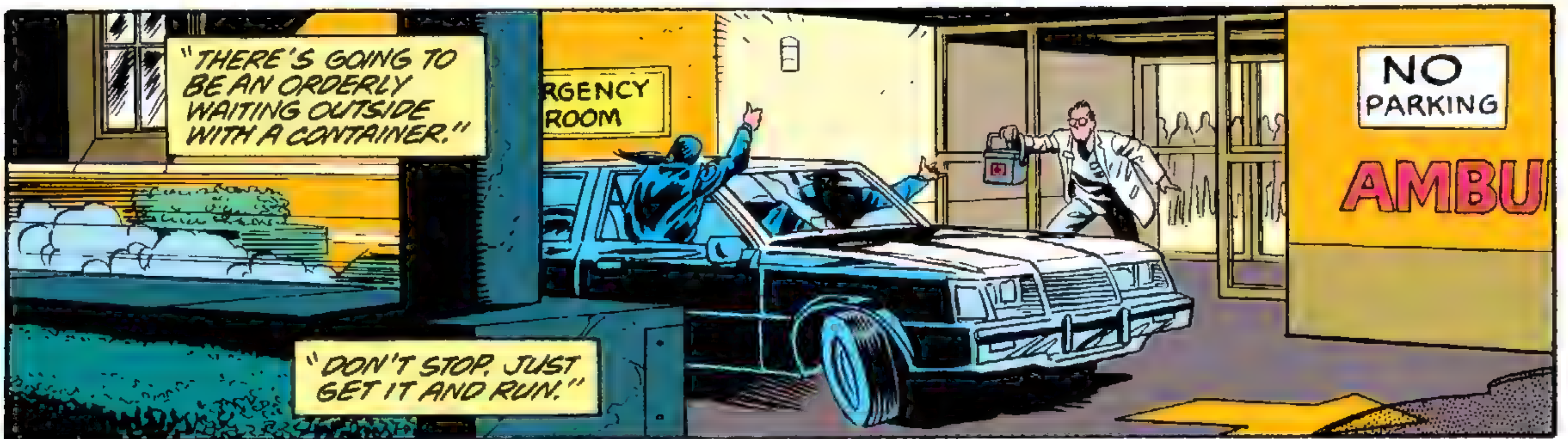
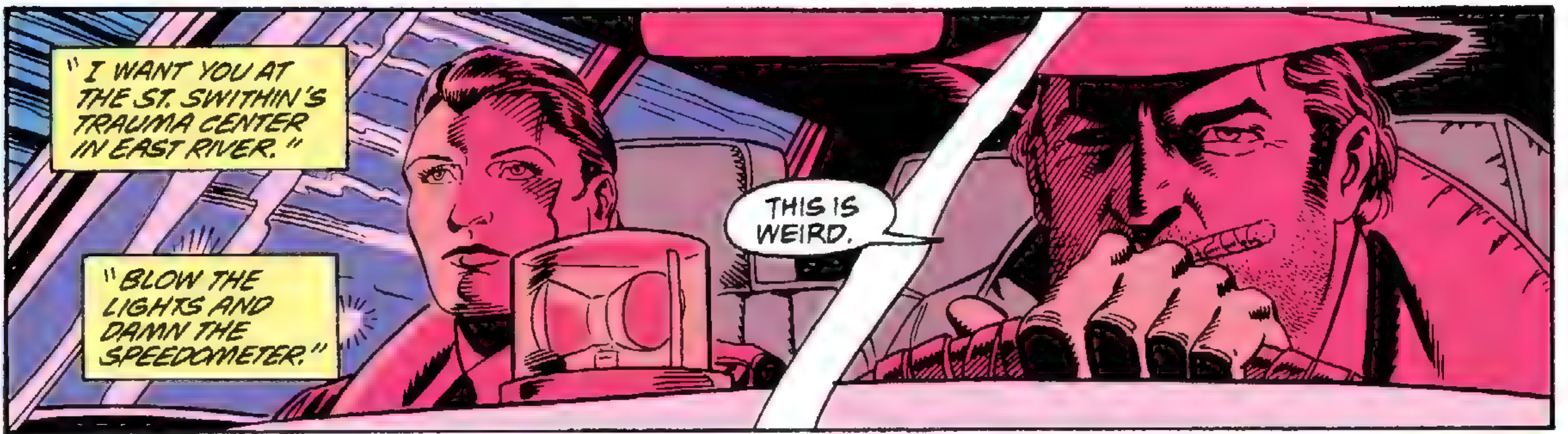


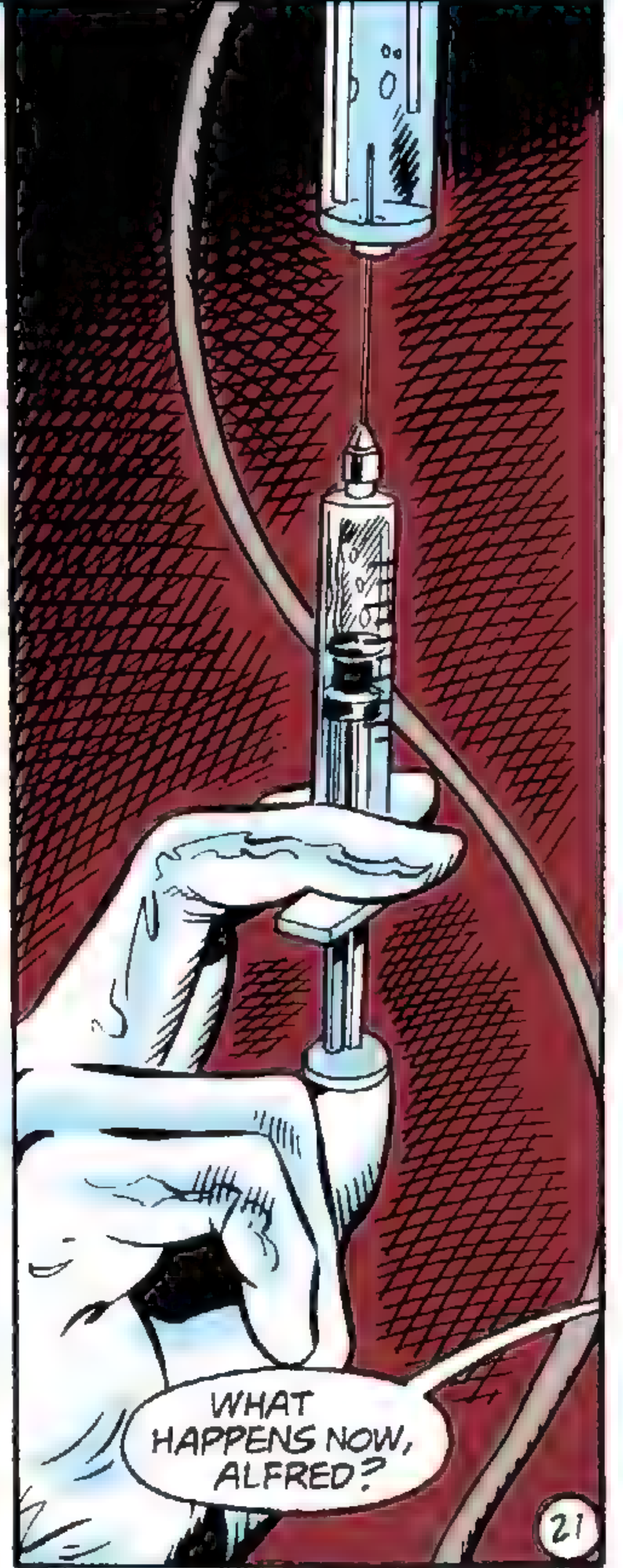
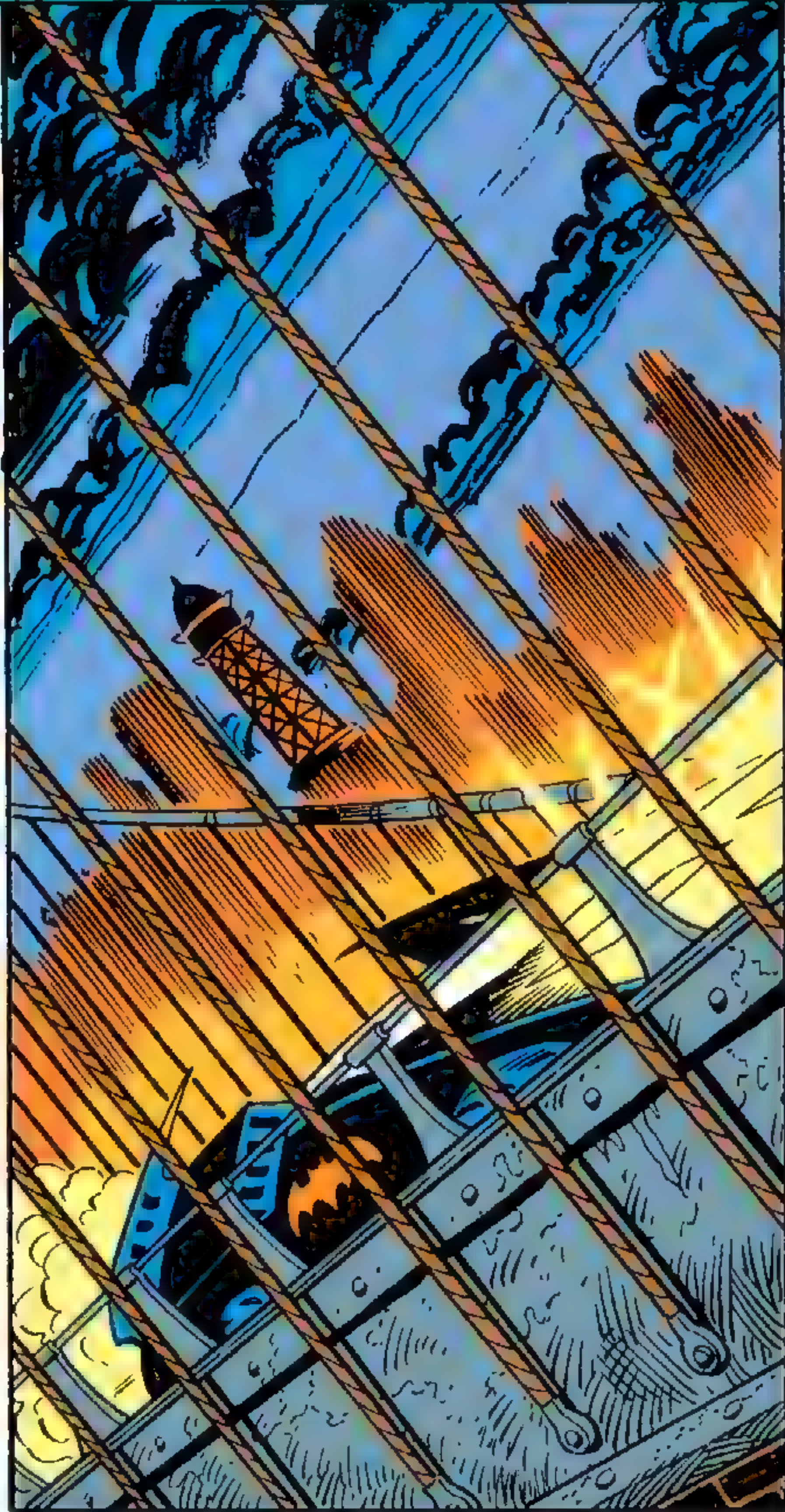
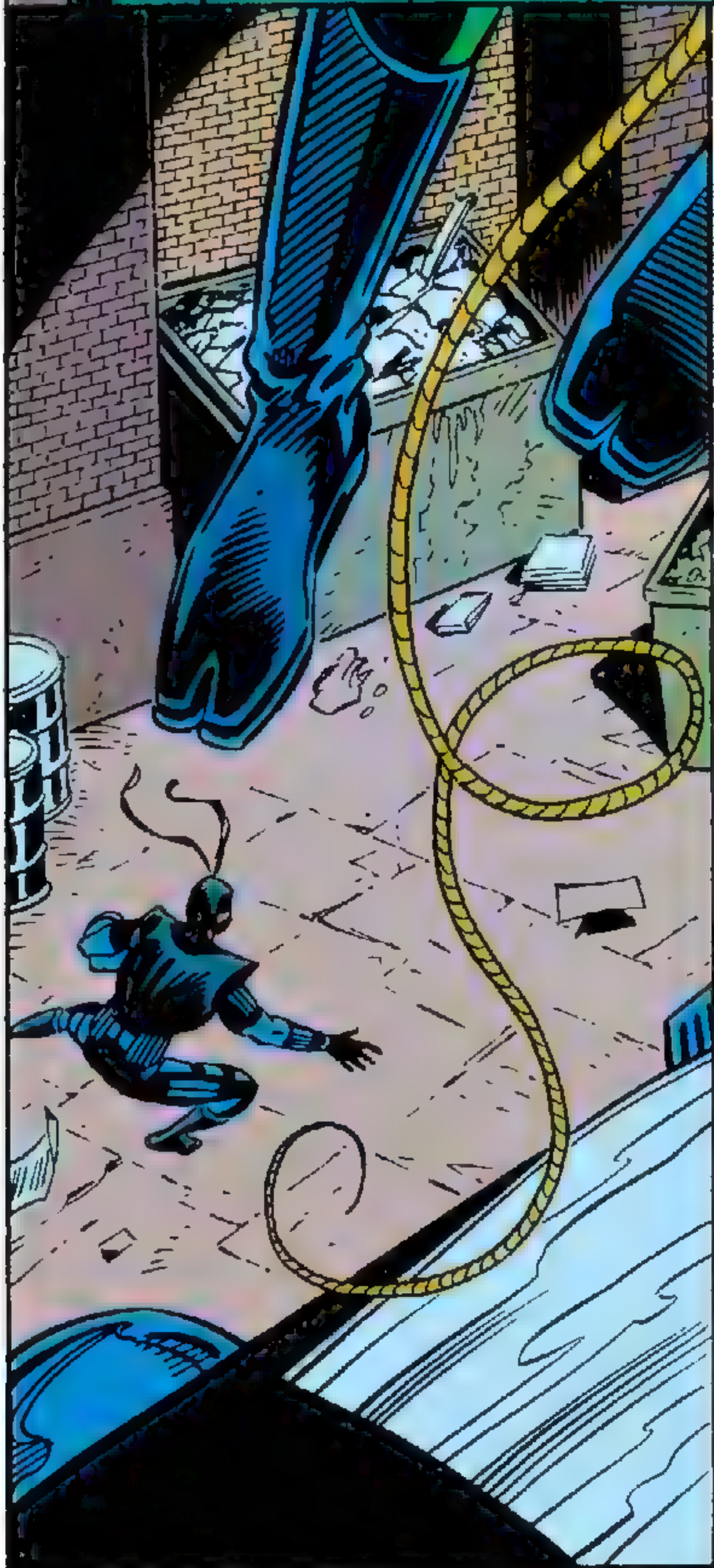
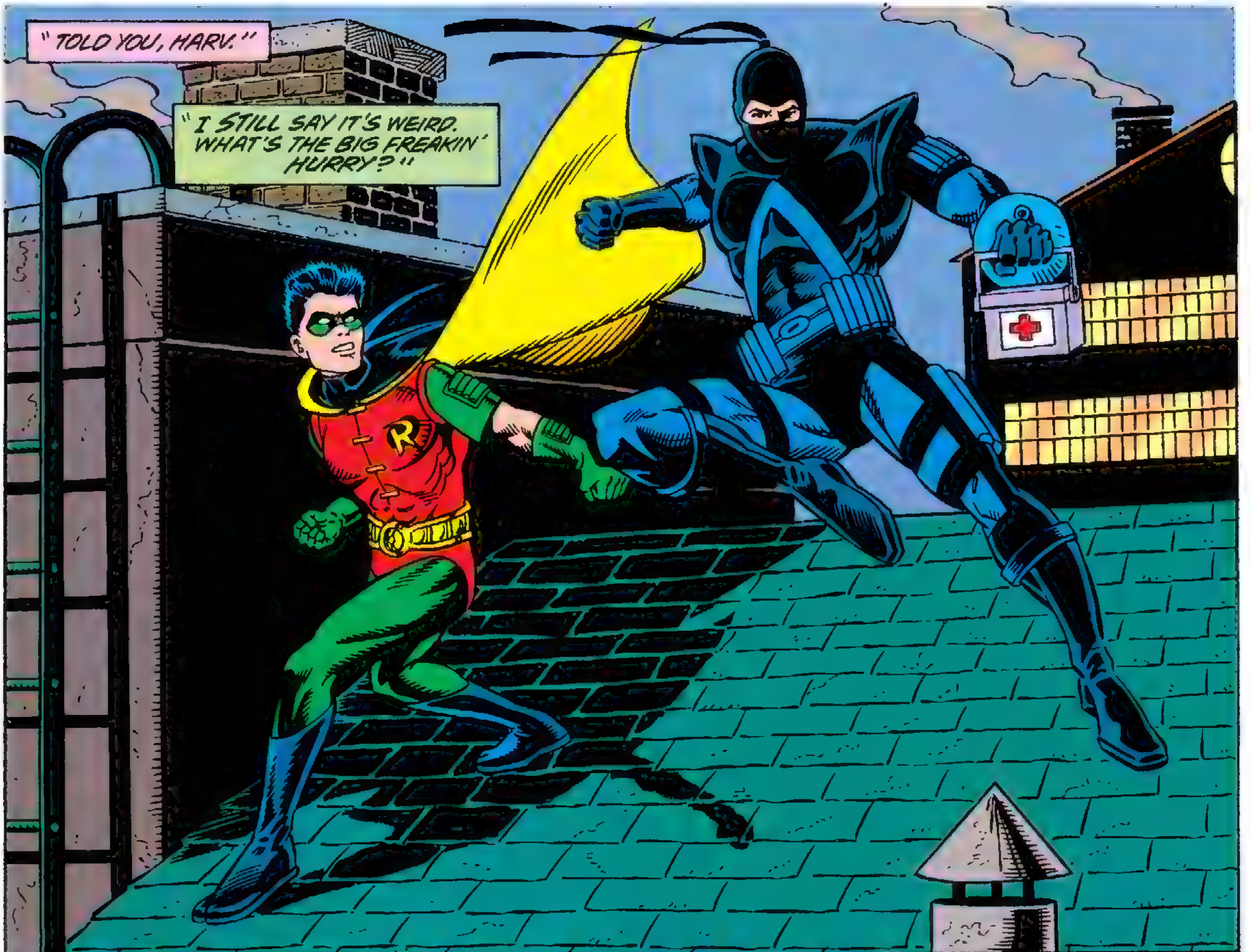






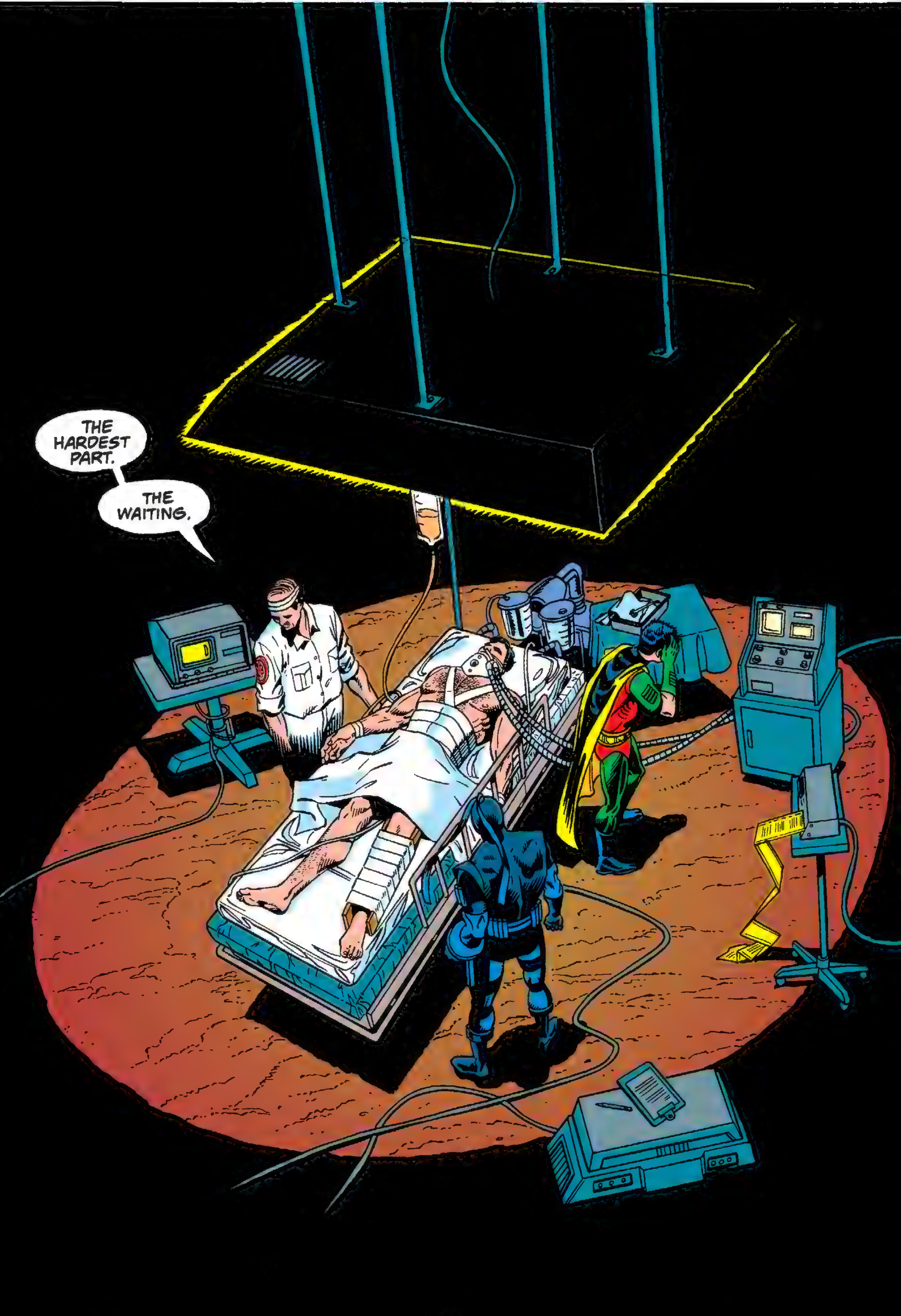






THE HARDEST PART.

THE WAITING.





KNIGHTFALL

13

TWO-FACE

TM

7
OF TWELVE
JULY



SHOWCAS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
DEATHSTROKE
THE TERMINATOR
PEACEMAKER
JADE AND
OBSIDIAN



3/5/82



Cover art by
BILL SIENKIEWICZ



THE CAVE, IN WHICH THE DARK KNIGHT HAS FALLEN...

WHAT HAPPENS NOW, ALFRED?

THE HARDEST PART.
THE WAITING.



BUT ARE YOU SURE THIS DECADRON WILL WORK?

IT IS THE ONLY DRUG EFFECTIVE AGAINST SEVERE SPINAL TRAUMA...AND THEREFORE...

...HIS AND OUR ONLY HOPE.



IT'S ALL MY FAULT! EVEN BEFORE BANE BROKE HIS BACK...WHEN WE WERE TAKING DOWN THE LAST OF THE ARKHAM ESCAPEES...

...I KNEW HE WAS ALREADY ON THE VERGE OF TOTAL COLLAPSE, AND I SHOULD HAVE--

DON'T, TIM...



DON'T BLAME YOURSELF... NOT NOW, LAD. I KNOW MASTER BRUCE REPRIMANDING YOU FOR ACTING WITH POOR JUDGMENT...

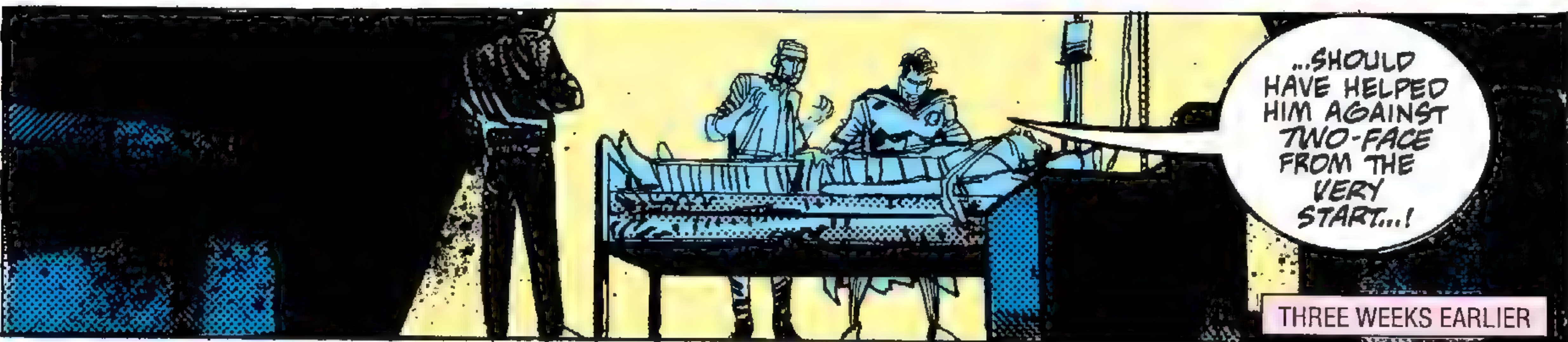
...BUT AS YOU SAY, HE WASN'T HIMSELF, AND YOU WERE NOT WRONG TO TRY TO SAVE HIM FROM--

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ALFRED--!



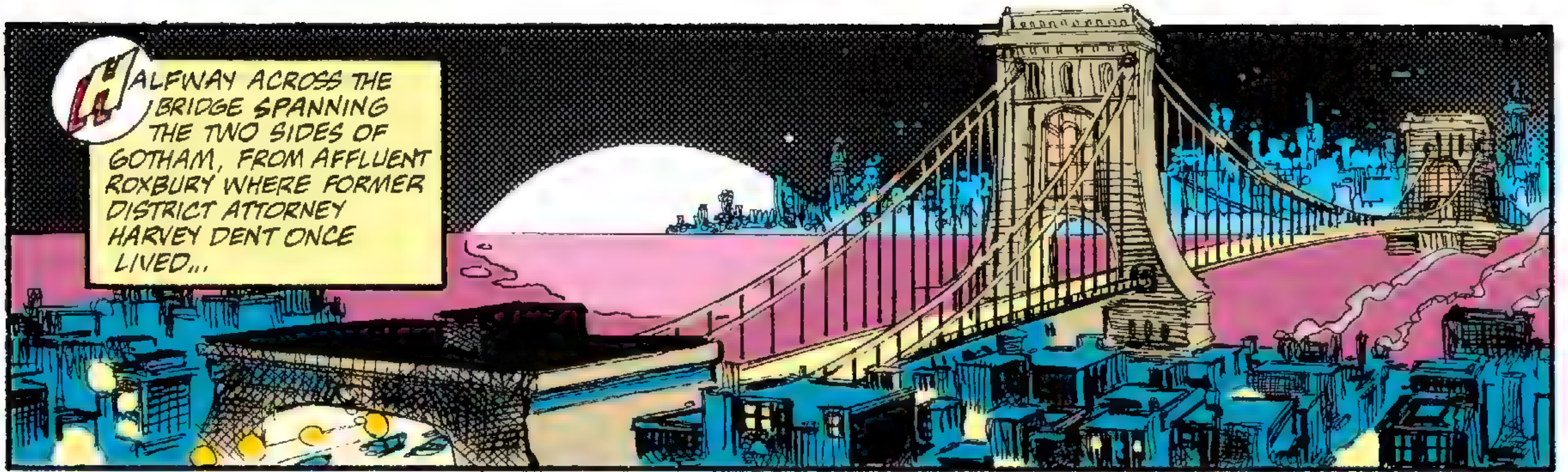
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING AT ALL!

IT'S MY FAULT BECAUSE I SHOULD HAVE ACTED A LOT SOONER...

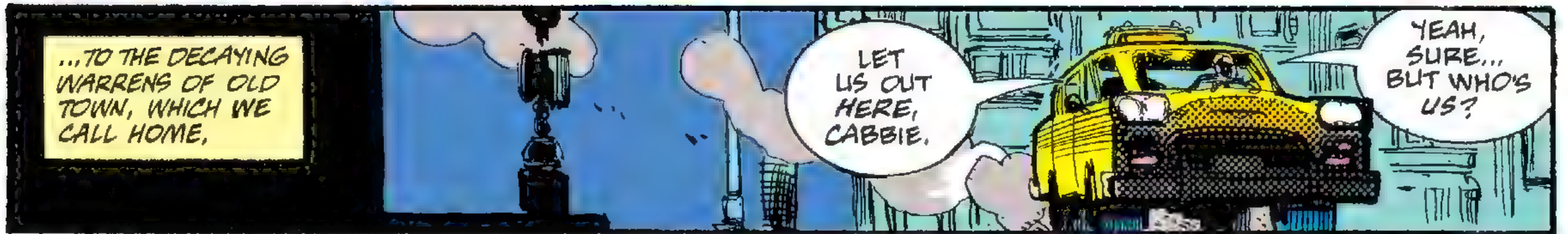


...SHOULD HAVE HELPED HIM AGAINST TWO-FACE FROM THE VERY START...!

THREE WEEKS EARLIER



HALFWAY ACROSS THE BRIDGE SPANNING THE TWO SIDES OF GOTHAM, FROM AFFLUENT ROXBURY WHERE FORMER DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT ONCE LIVED...



...TO THE DECAYING WARRENS OF OLD TOWN, WHICH WE CALL HOME,

LET US OUT HERE, CABBIE.

YEAH, SURE... BUT WHO'S US?



YOUR PASSENGER-- US.

KEEP THE COINS.



ON THE FACE OF IT, THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

BEEN CONDEMNED.



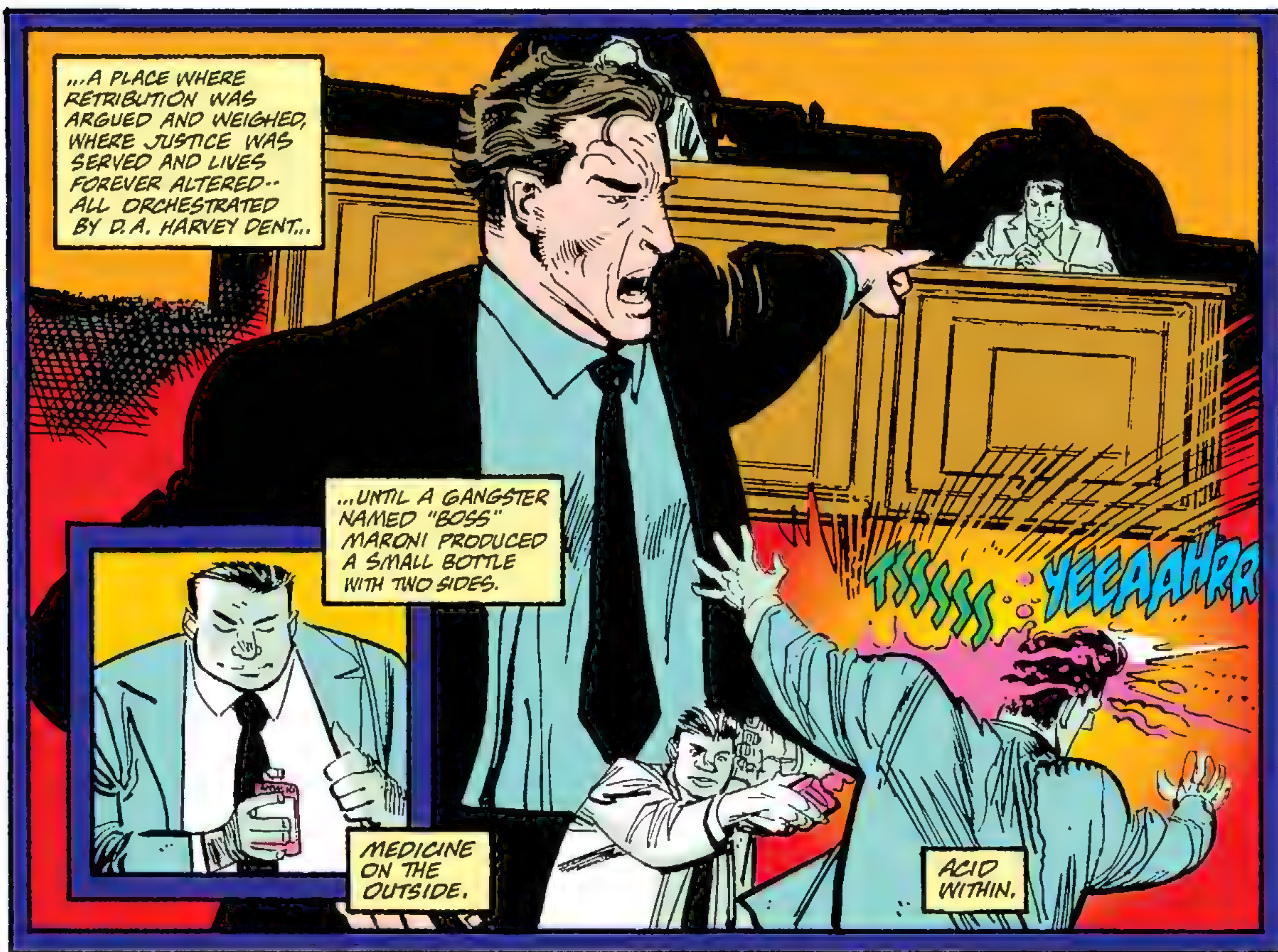
CRUMBLING WITHIN.



AND SOON, UNDER THE WRECKING BALL, CRUMBLING WITHOUT.



BUT IT WAS ONCE AN EDIFICE OF REVERENCE, RESPECT, EVEN FEAR...



...A PLACE WHERE
RETRIBUTION WAS
ARGUED AND WEIGHED,
WHERE JUSTICE WAS
SERVED AND LIVES
FOREVER ALTERED--
ALL ORCHESTRATED
BY D.A. HARVEY DENT...

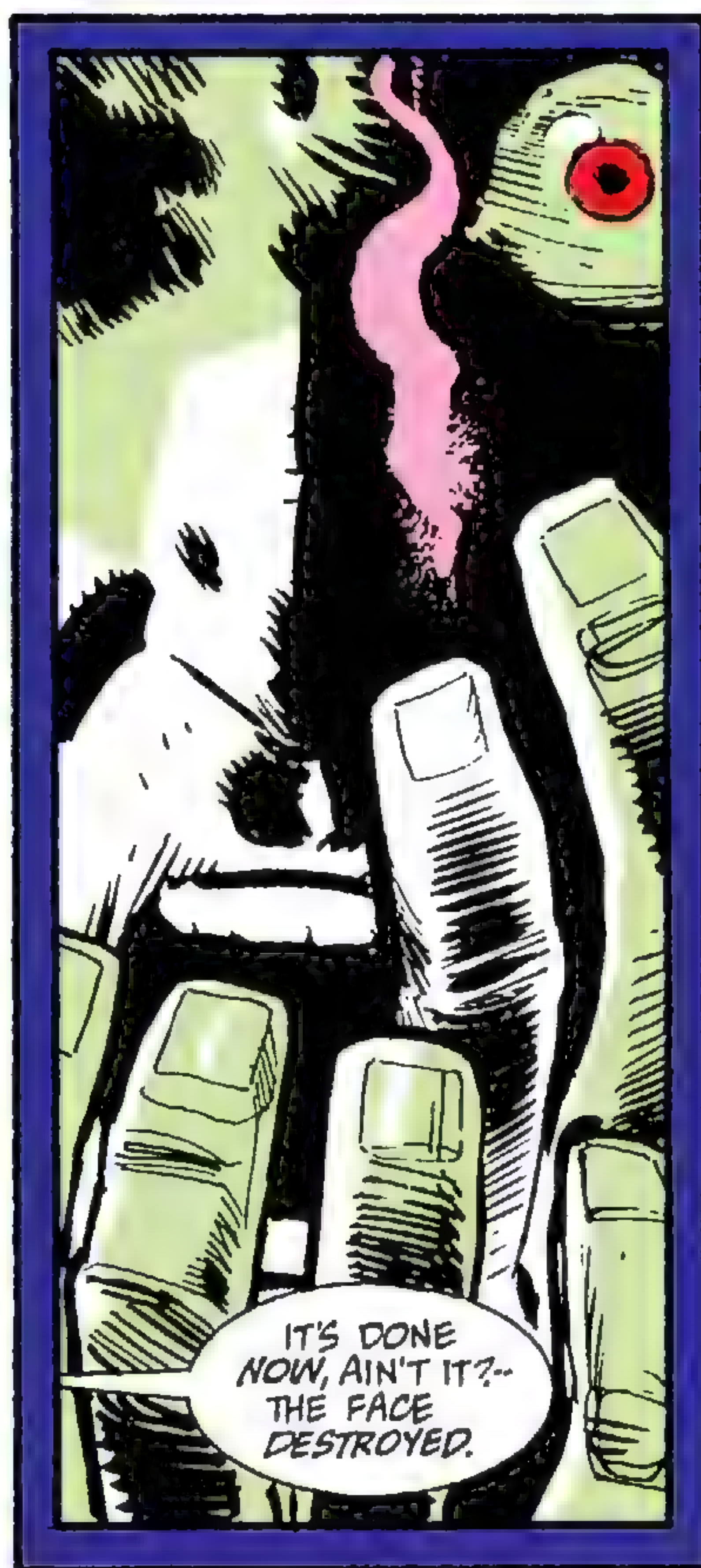
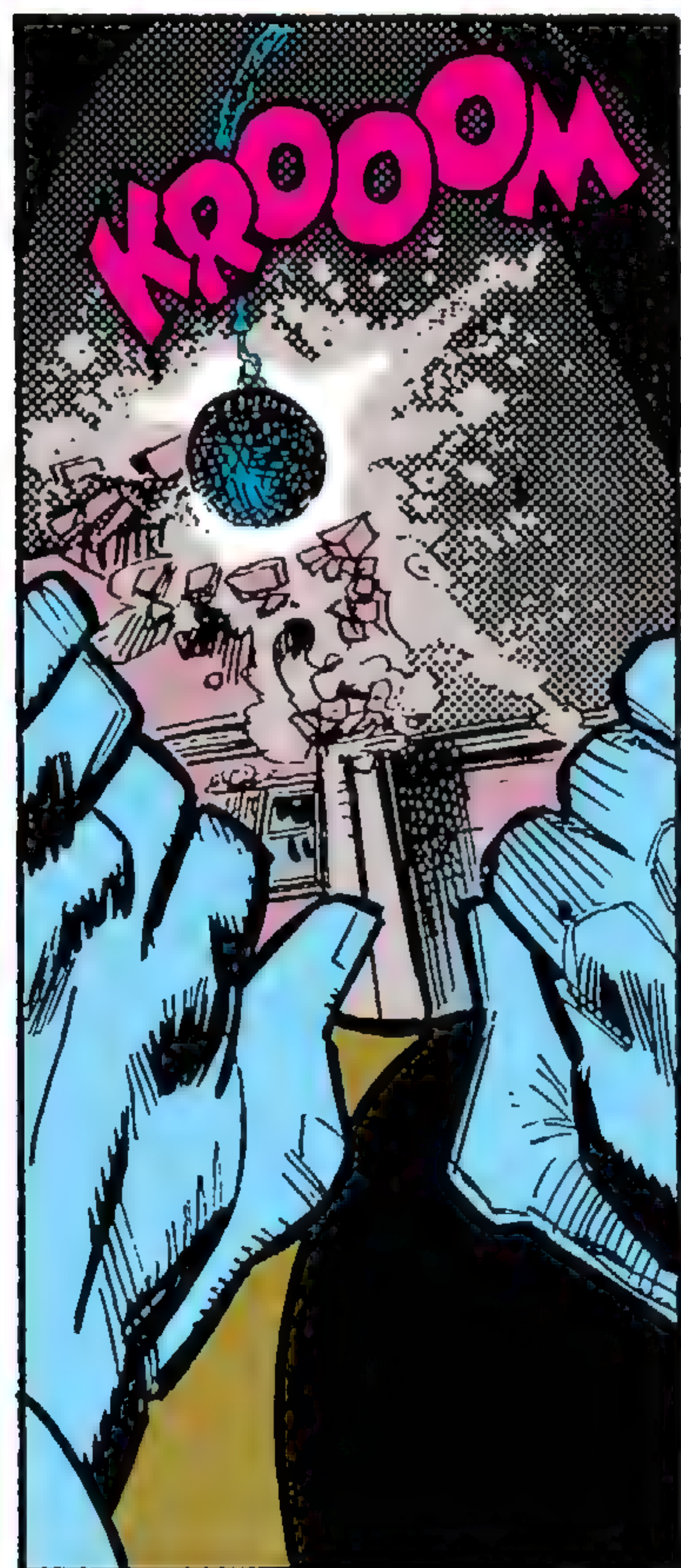
...UNTIL A GANGSTER
NAMED "BOSS"
MARONI PRODUCED
A SMALL BOTTLE
WITH TWO SIDES.



MEDICINE
ON THE
OUTSIDE.

TSSSSS YEEAAHRR

ACID
WITHIN.



IT'S DONE
NOW, AIN'T IT?--
THE FACE
DESTROYED.



...AND A
BEAUTIFUL
FACADE IT WAS--
SHAME TO SEE
IT GO DOWN.

OH, I
KNOW THEY
BEEN USIN' THE
NEW COURTHOUSE
FOR YEARS NOW,
BUT STILL...



...A CRYIN' PITY TO LOSE SUCH A LANDMARK.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...THE OLD ALWAYS GIVES WAY...



...TO THE NEW.

FACE DOUBLE CROSS

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writer
KLAUS JANSON
artist/colorist
KEN BRAZENAK
letterer
DENNIS O'NEIL
consulting
editor
NEAL POZNER
editor

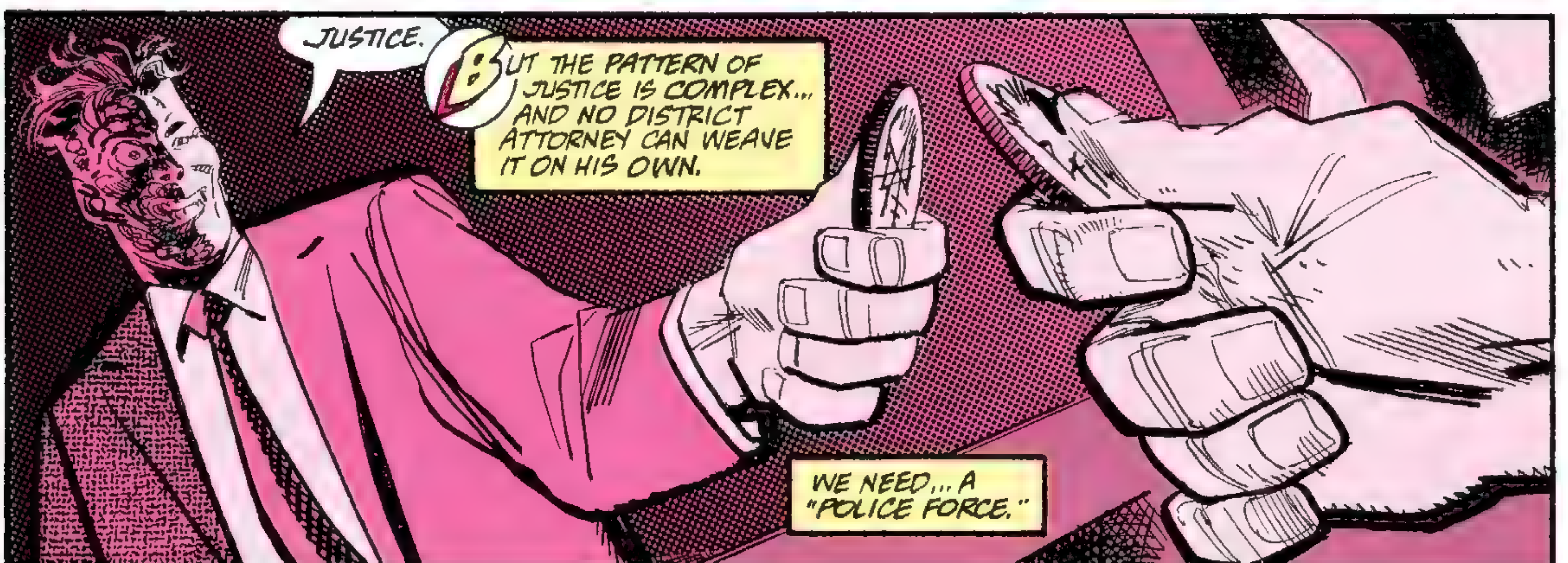
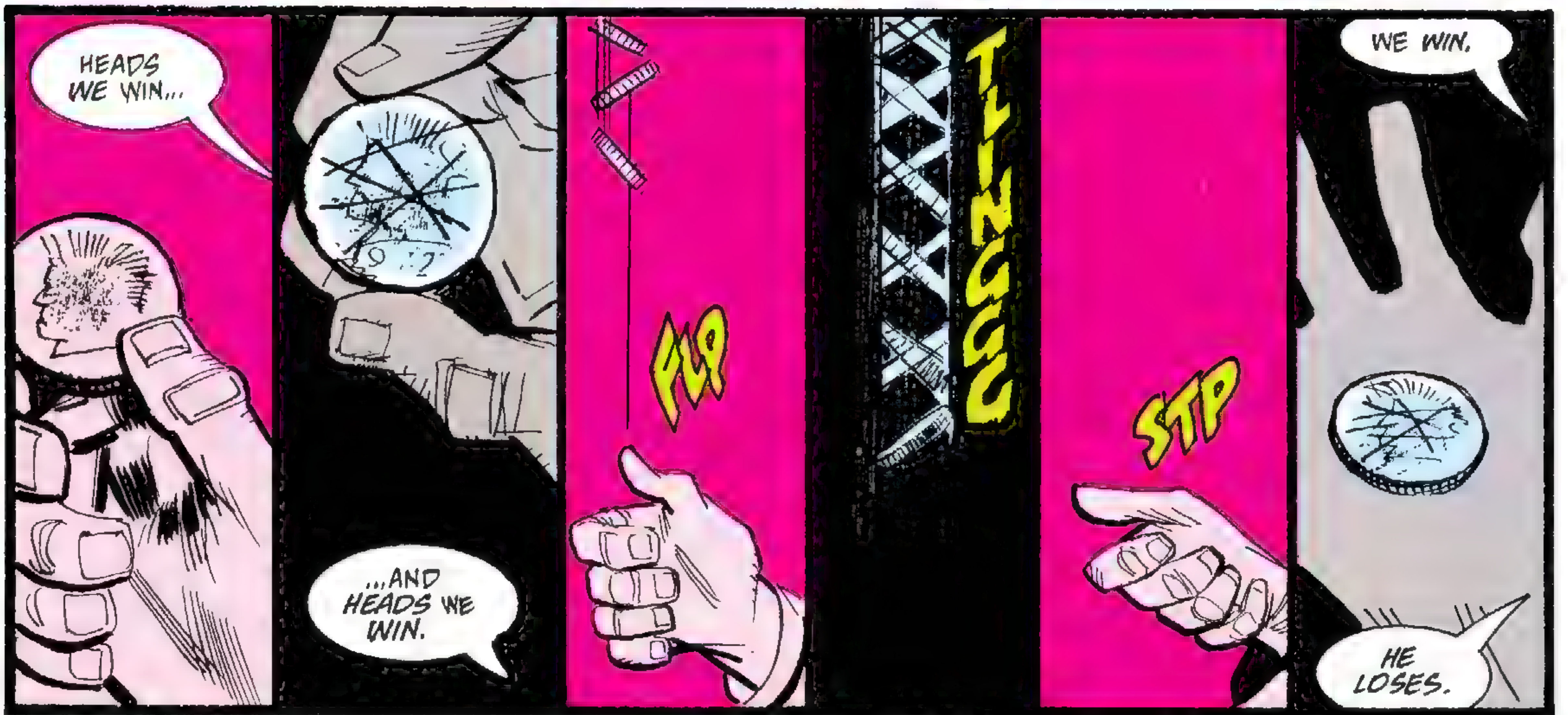
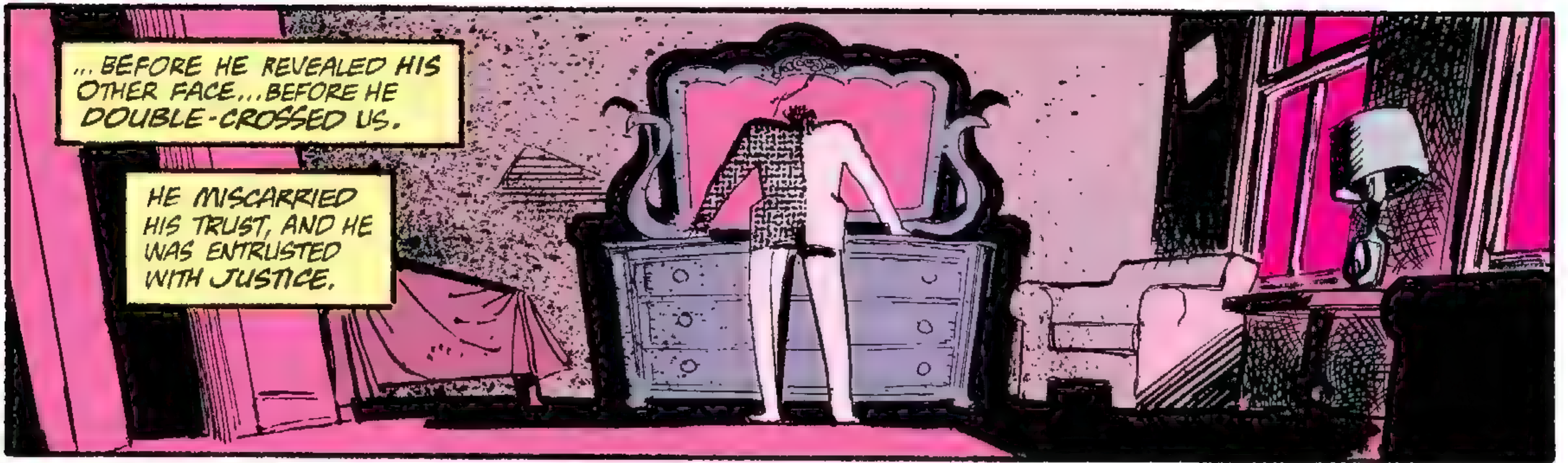
OH...MY...
GOD...

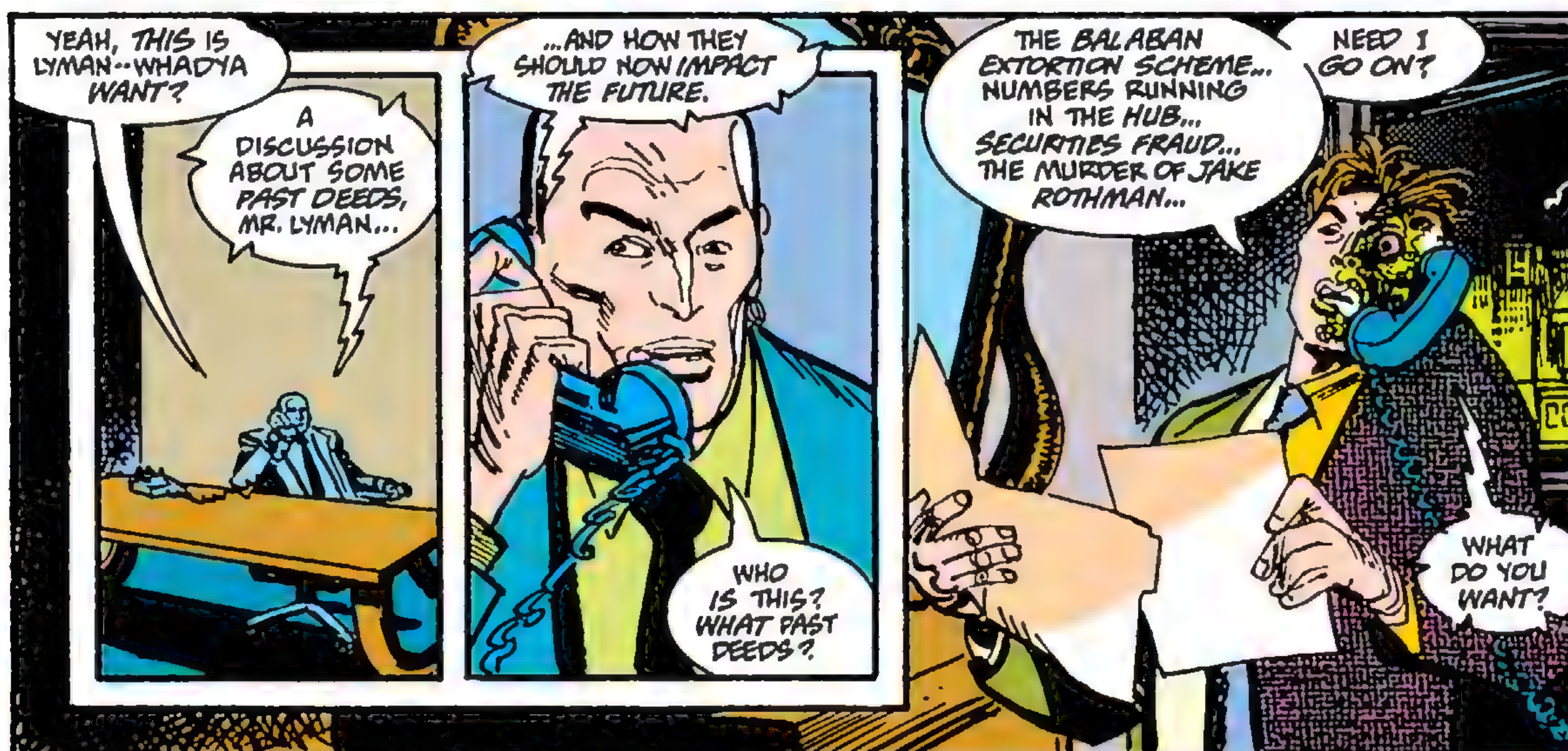
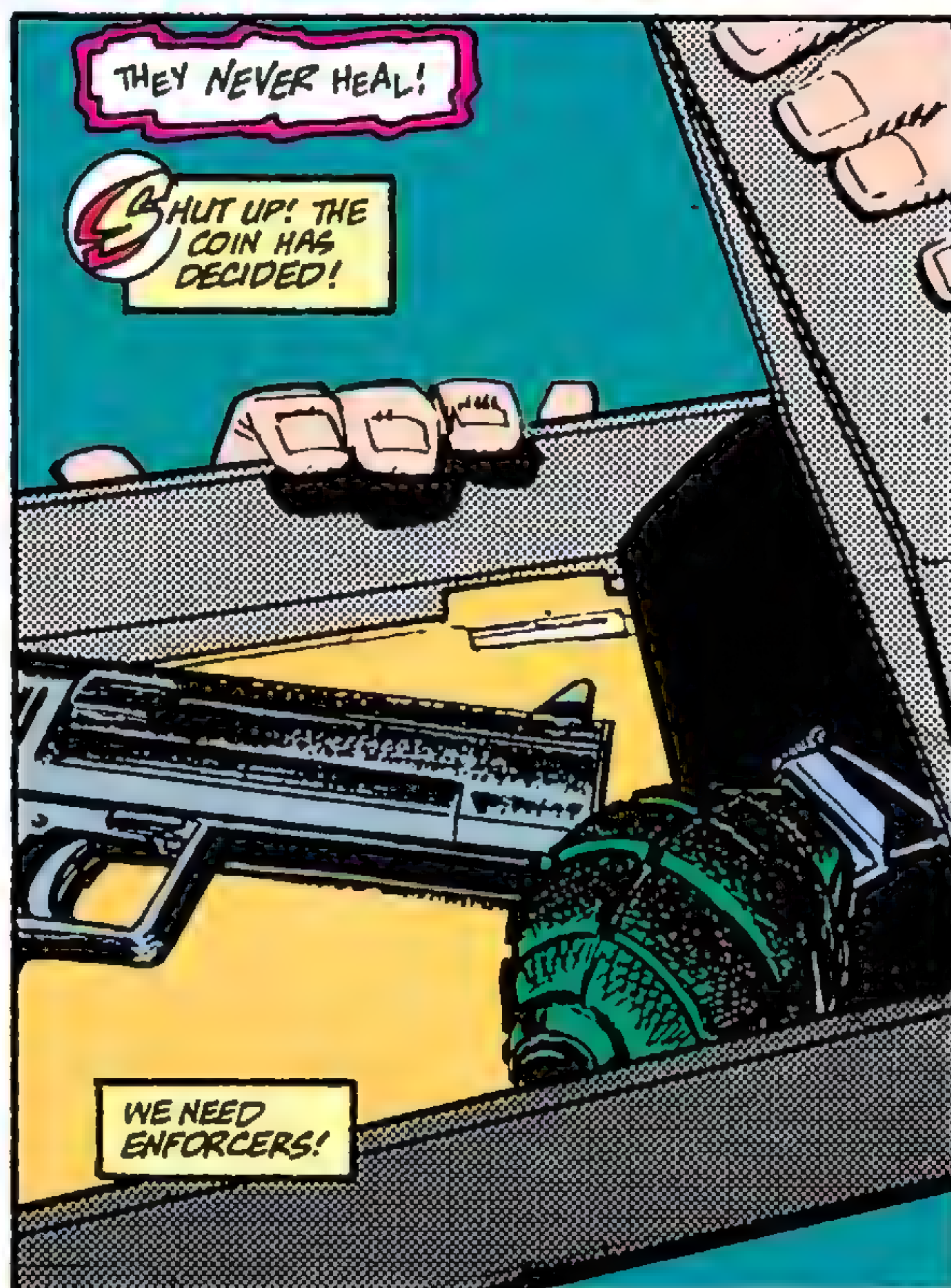


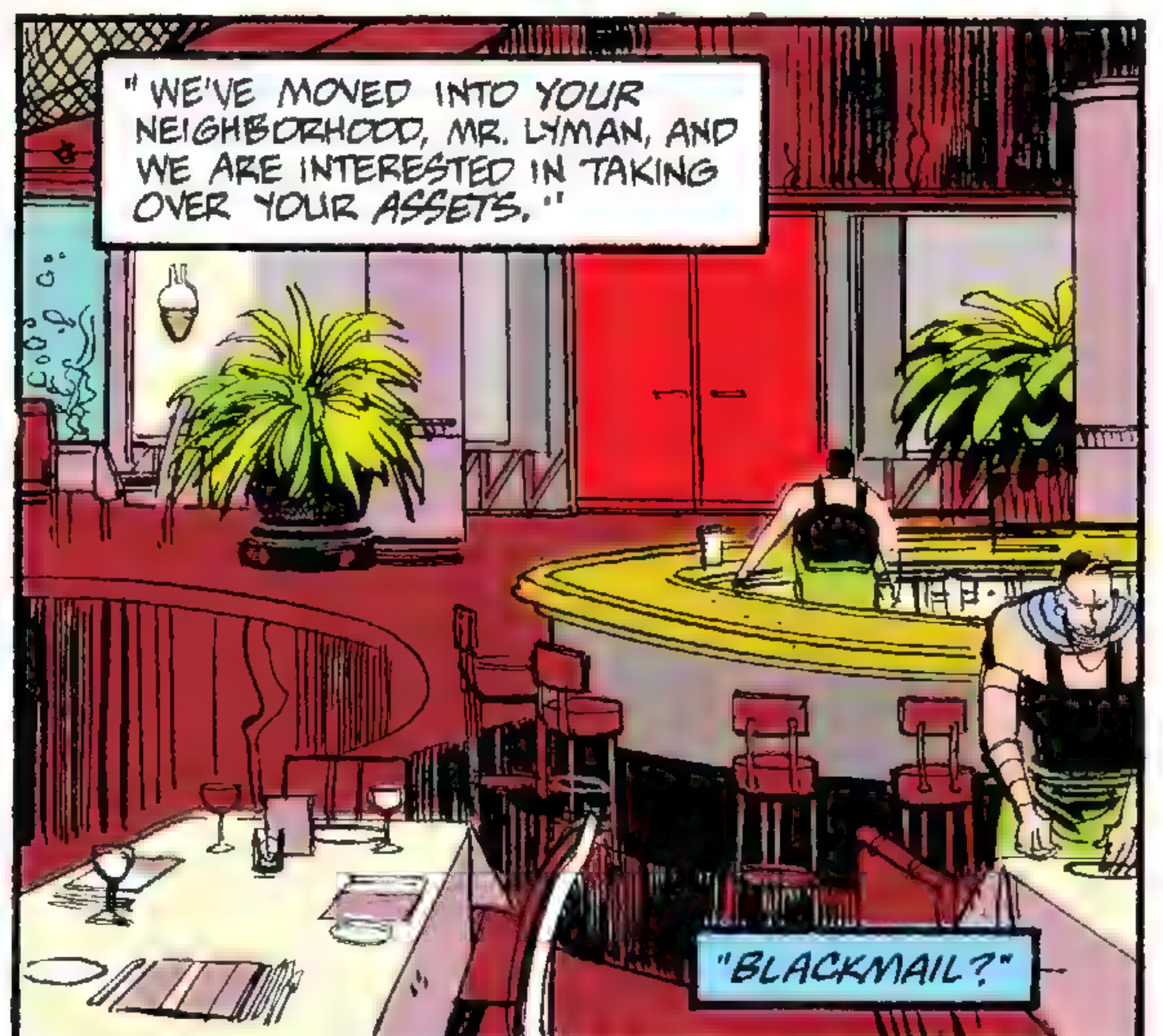
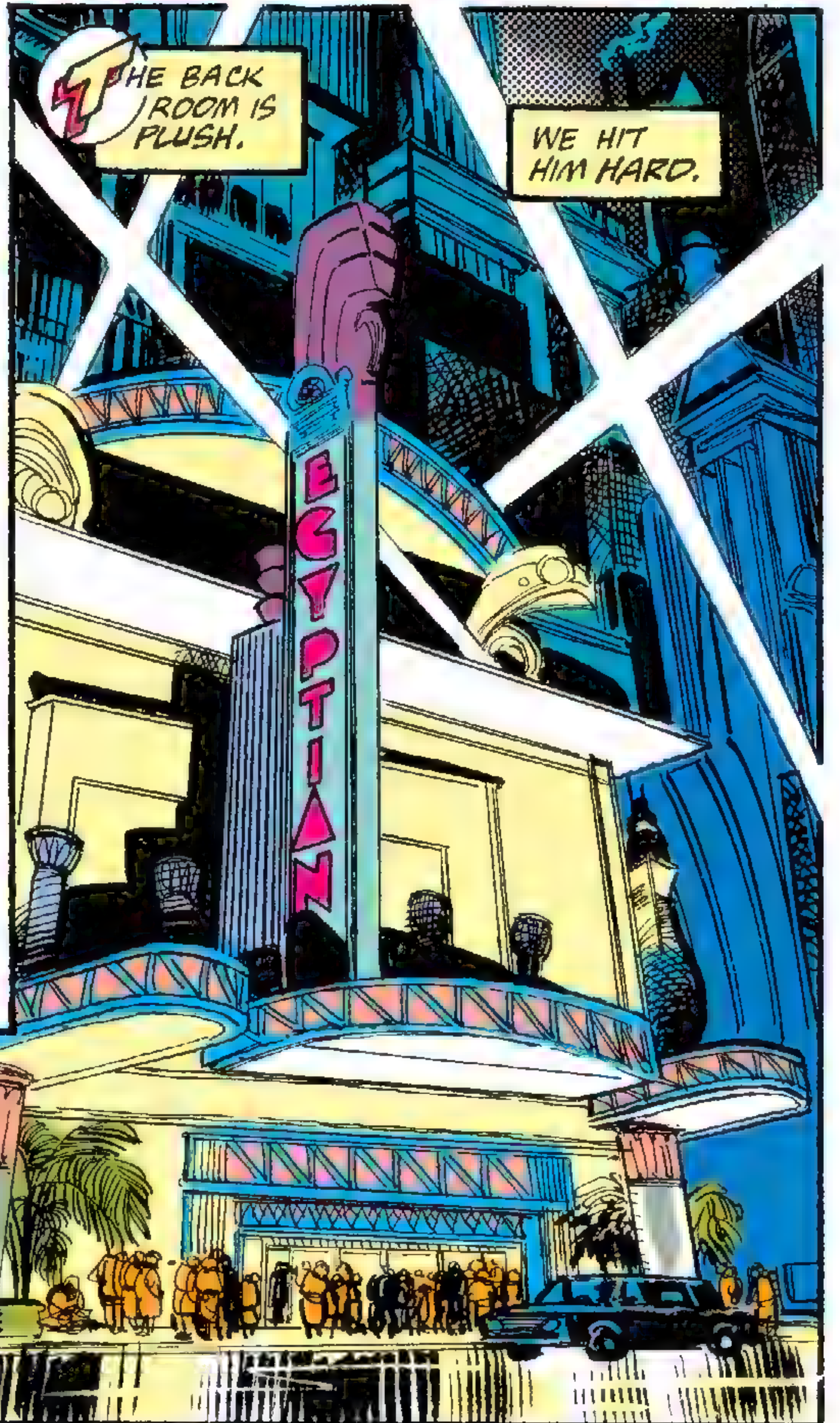
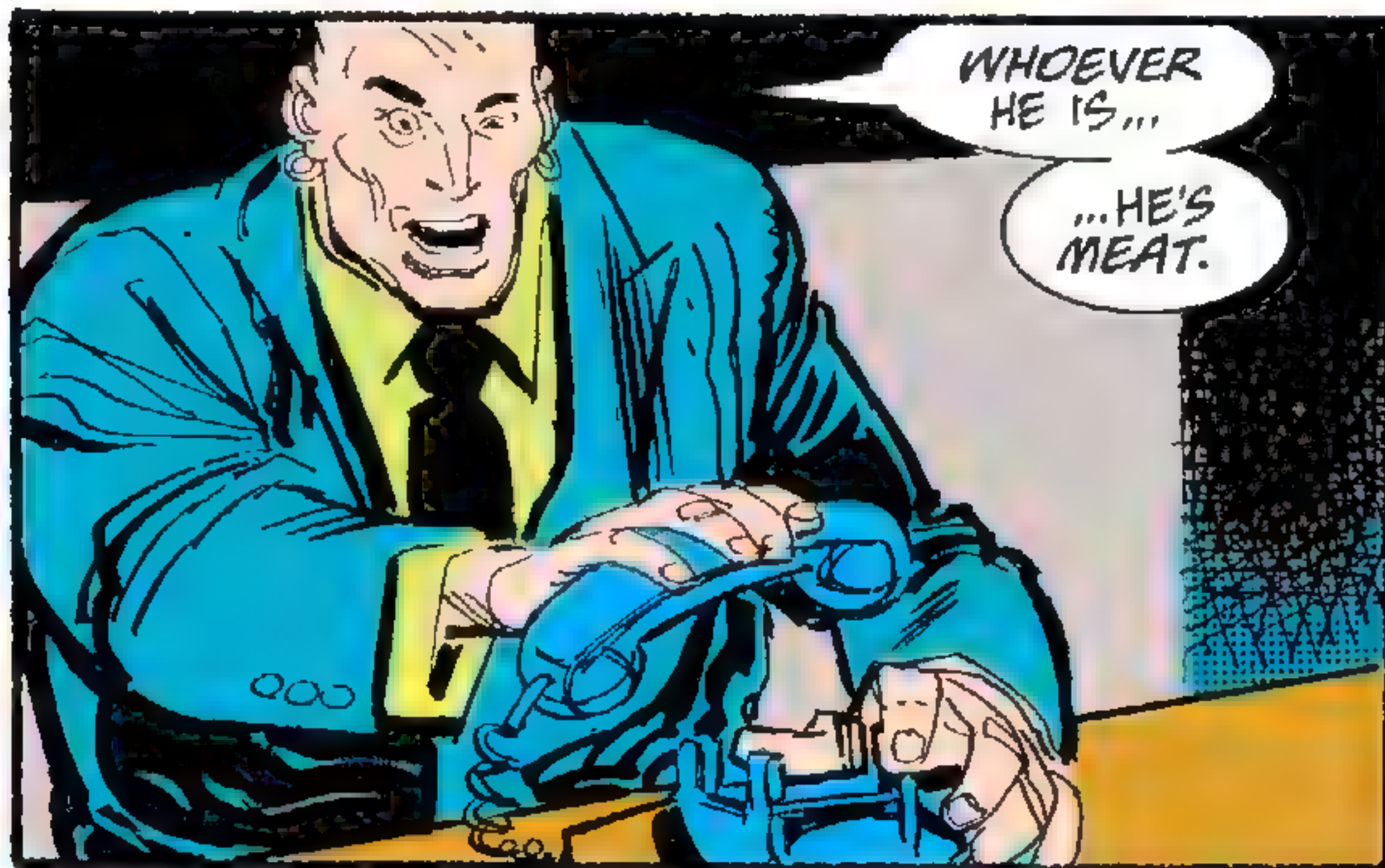
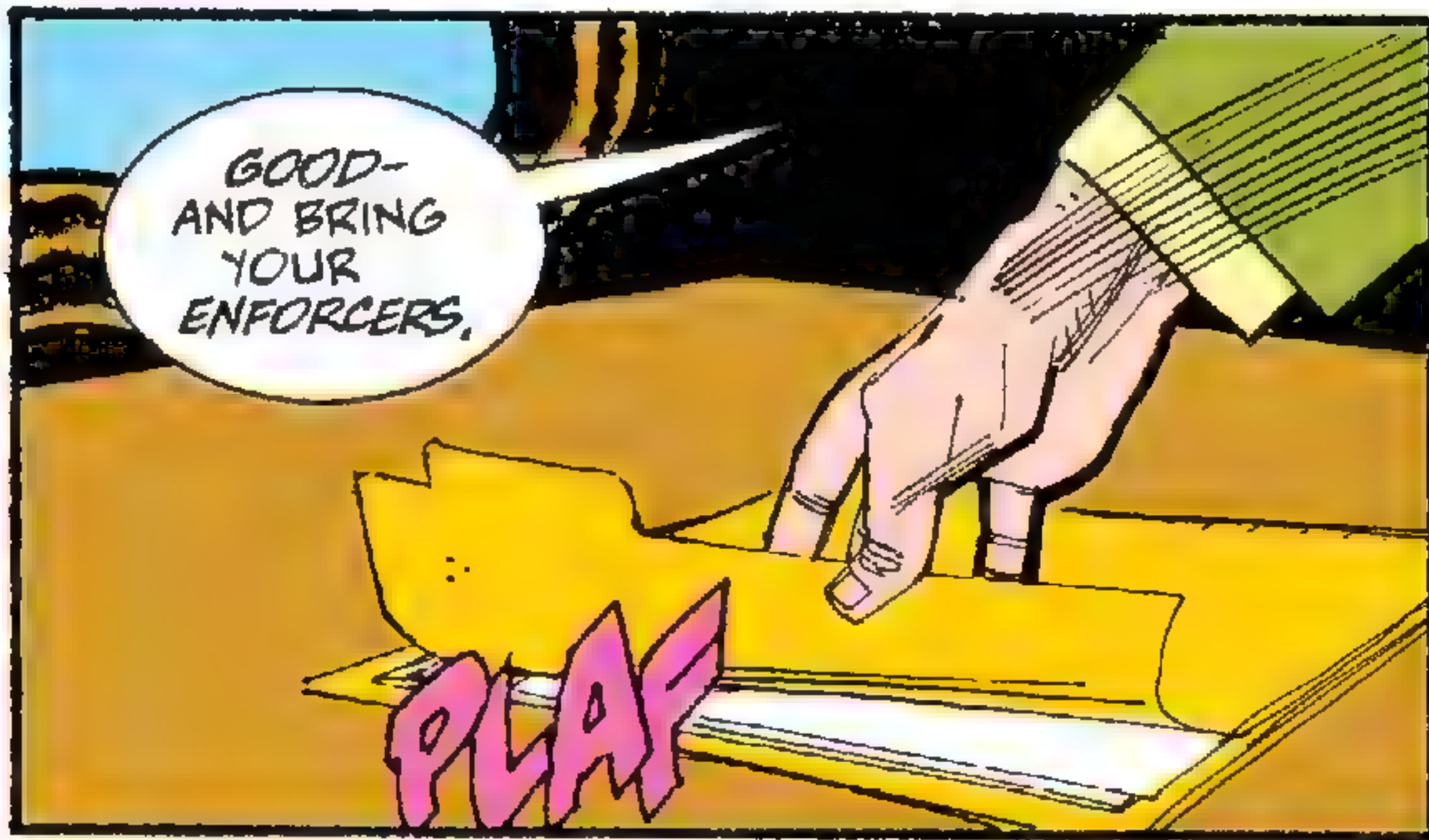
AS WE LEAVE,
WEIGHING
OUR CHOICES.

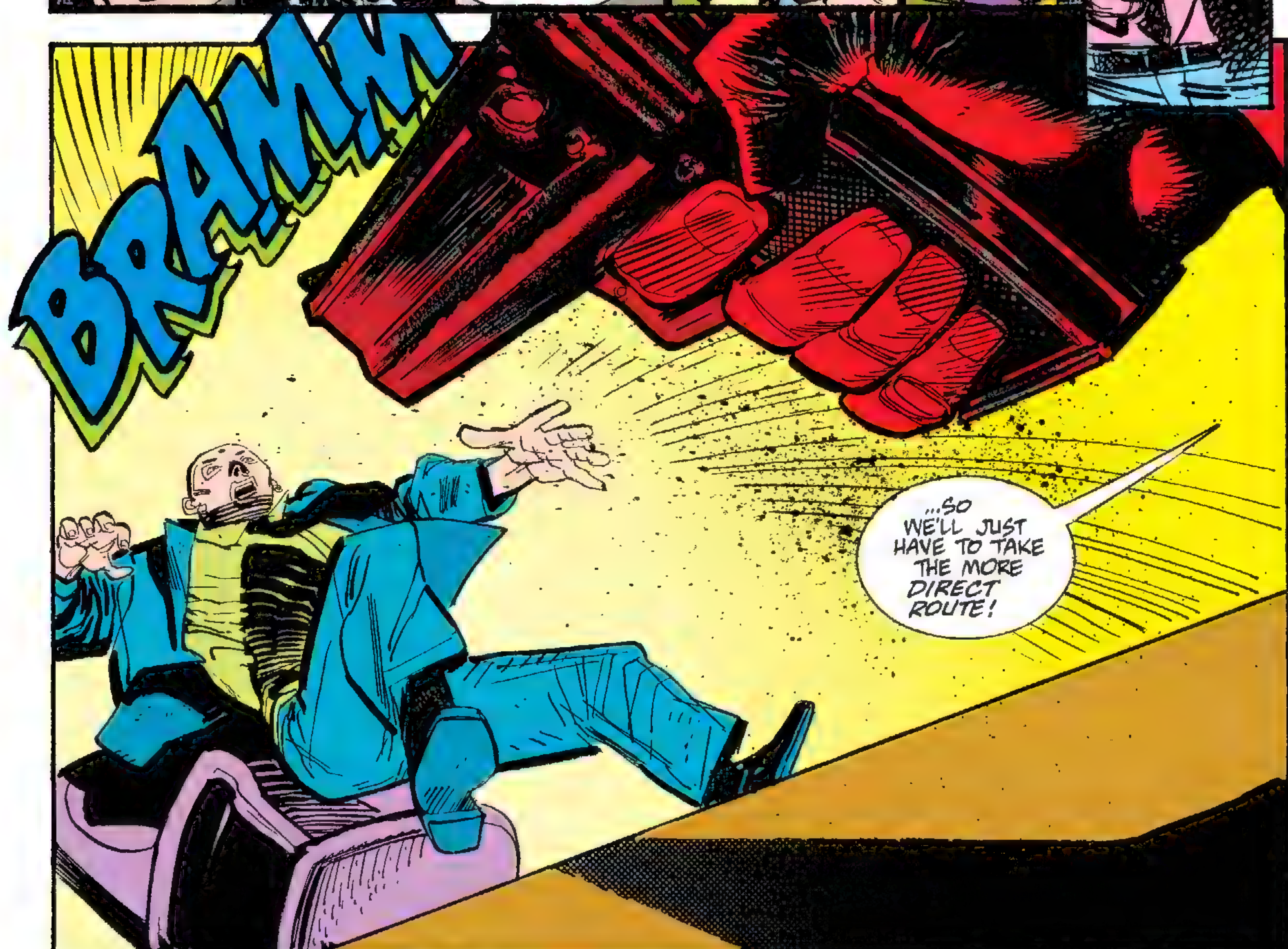
¡AUG-K
A HUK!:







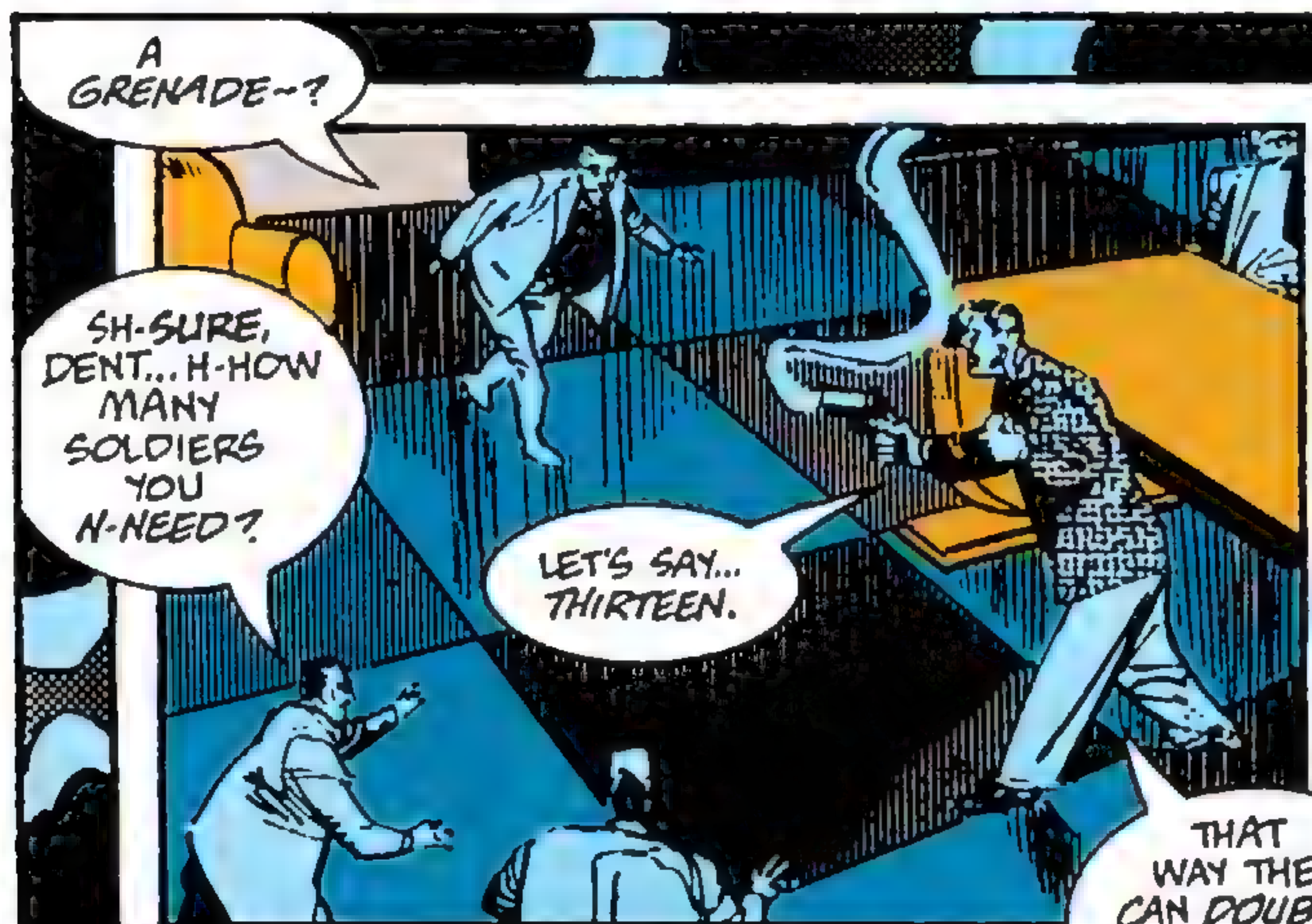






NOW...THE
REST OF YOU
GENTLEMEN...

...DO
WE HAVE A
DEAL?



A
GRENADE--?

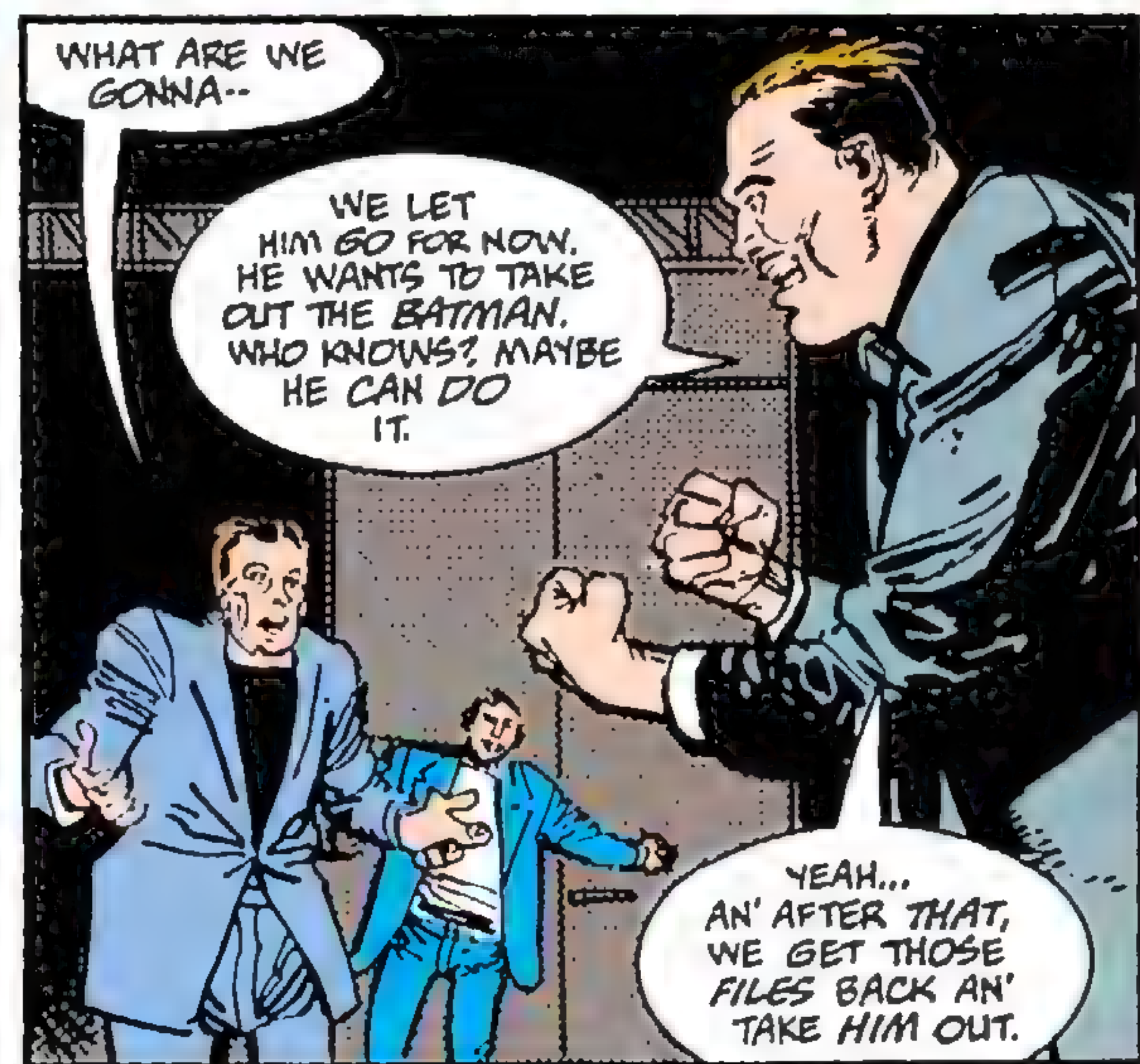
SH-SURE,
DENT... H-HOW
MANY
SOLDIERS
YOU
H-NEED?

LET'S SAY...
THIRTEEN.

THAT
WAY THEY
CAN DOUBLE...
AS JUDGE
AND JURY.



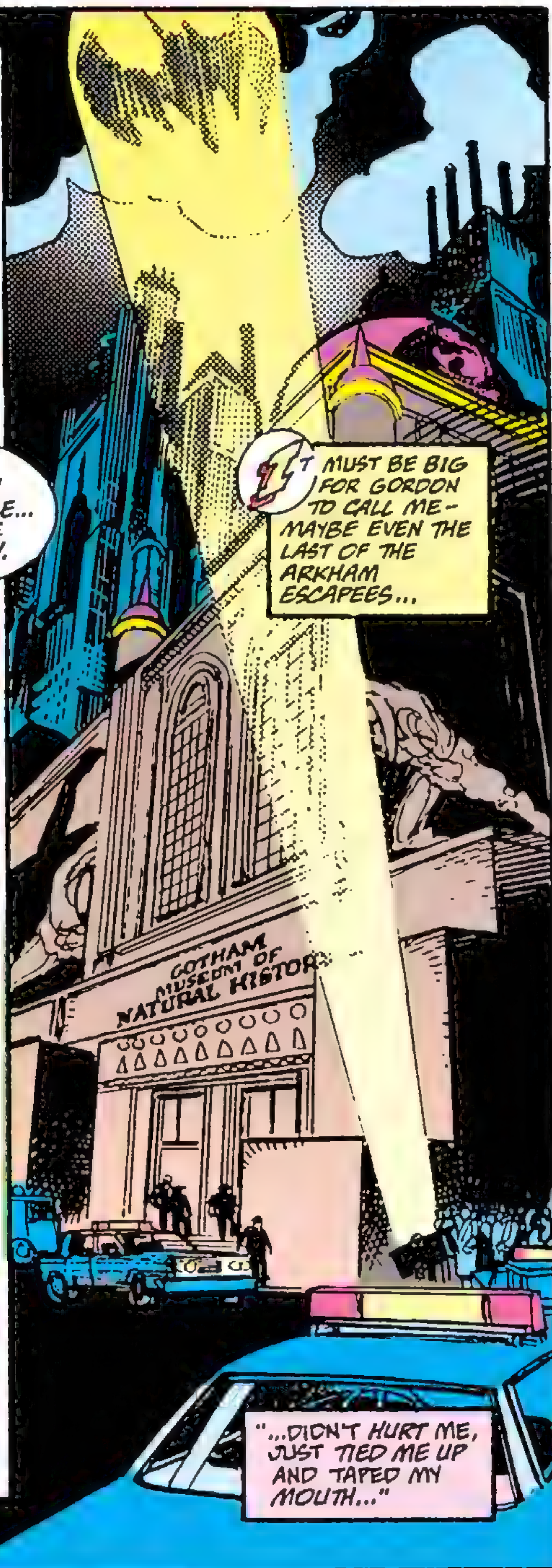
SEND
THEM TO THE
NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM IN
TWO HOURS--
WITH LYMAN'S
BODY.



WHAT ARE WE
GONNA--

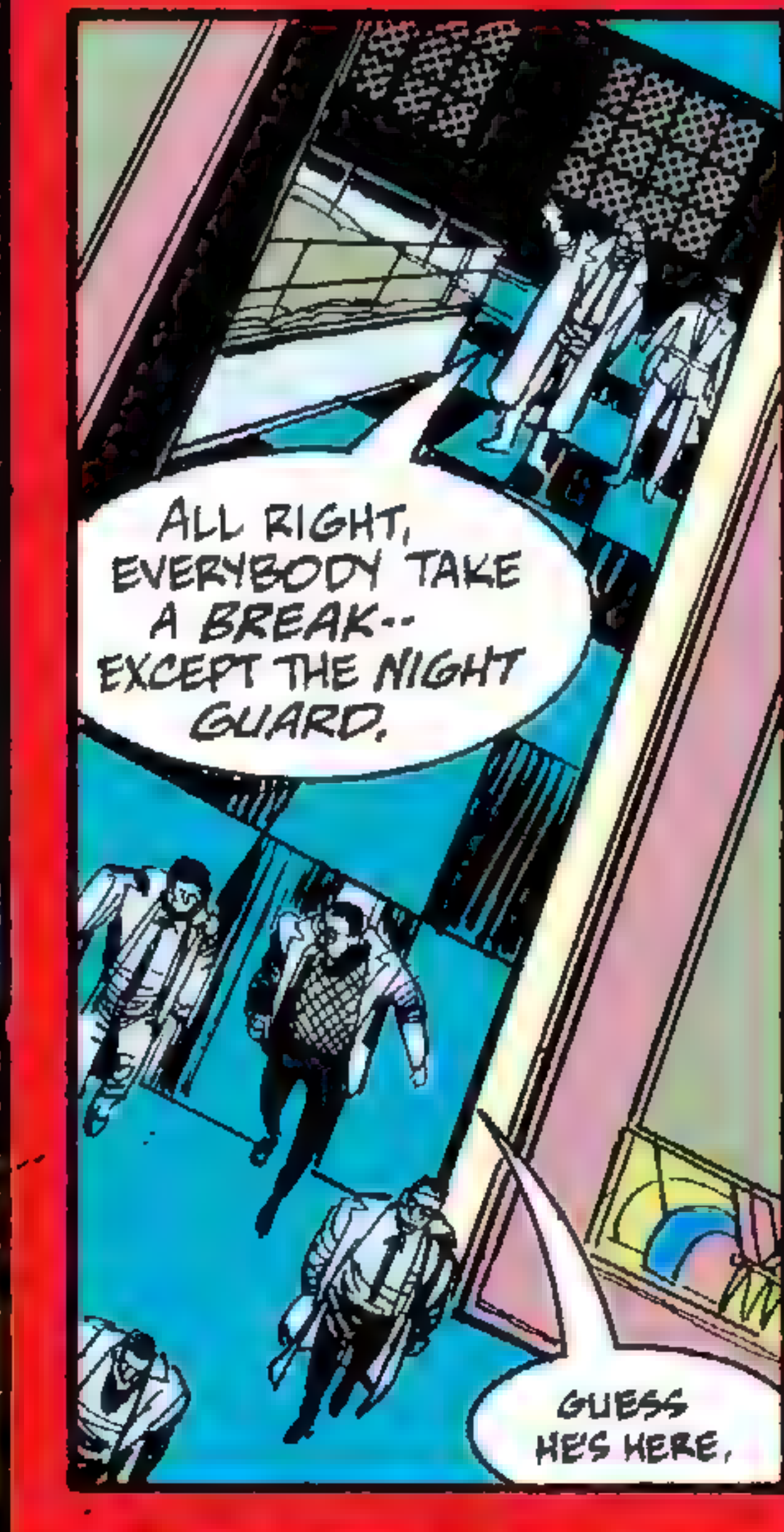
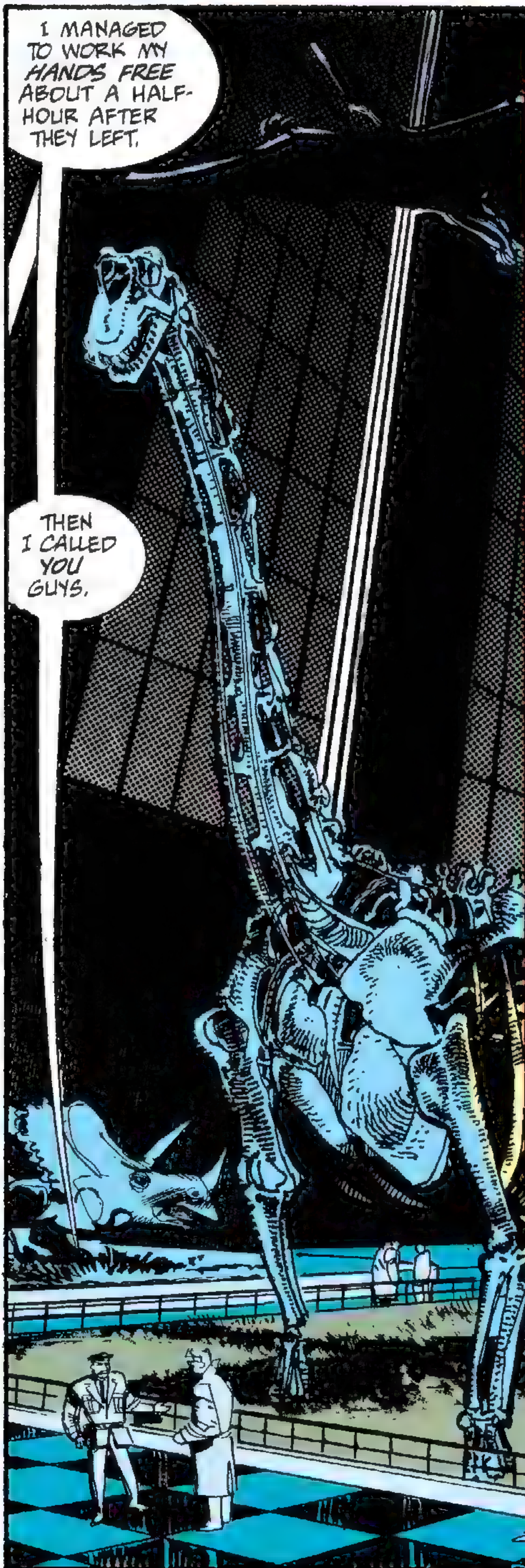
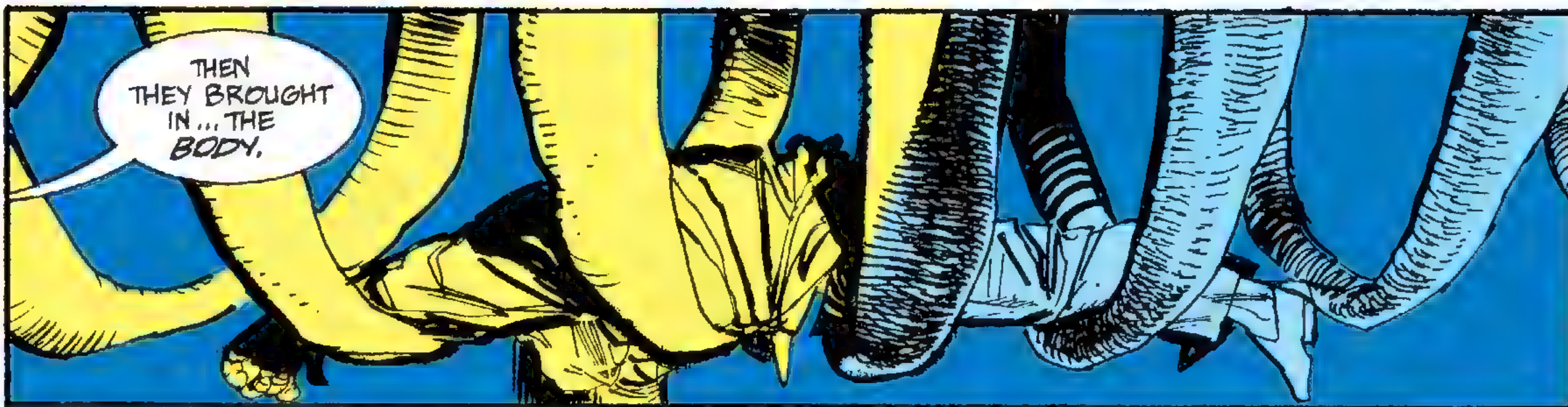
WE LET
HIM GO FOR NOW.
HE WANTS TO TAKE
OUT THE BATMAN.
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE
HE CAN DO
IT.

YEAH...
AN' AFTER THAT,
WE GET THOSE
FILES BACK AN'
TAKE HIM OUT.

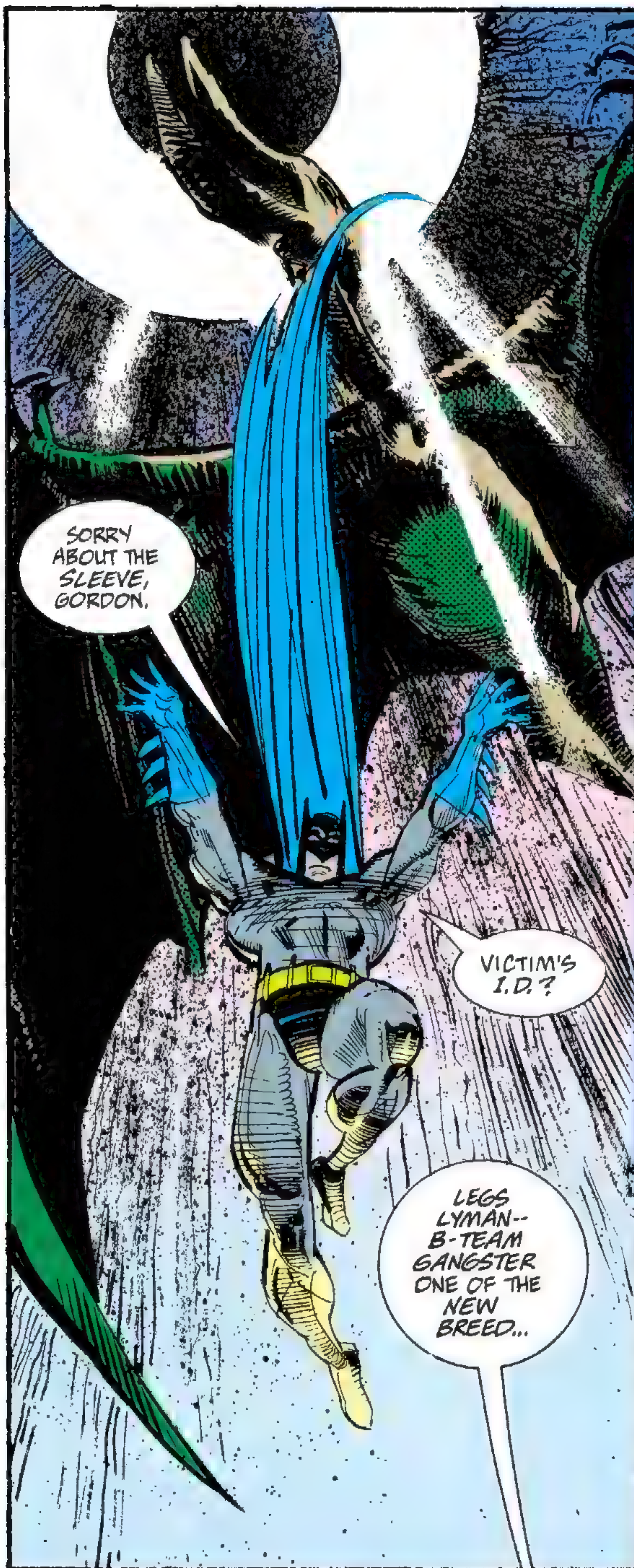


IT MUST BE BIG
FOR GORDON
TO CALL ME--
MAYBE EVEN THE
LAST OF THE
ARKHAM
ESCAPEES...

"...DIDN'T HURT ME,
JUST TIED ME UP
AND TAPED MY
MOUTH..."



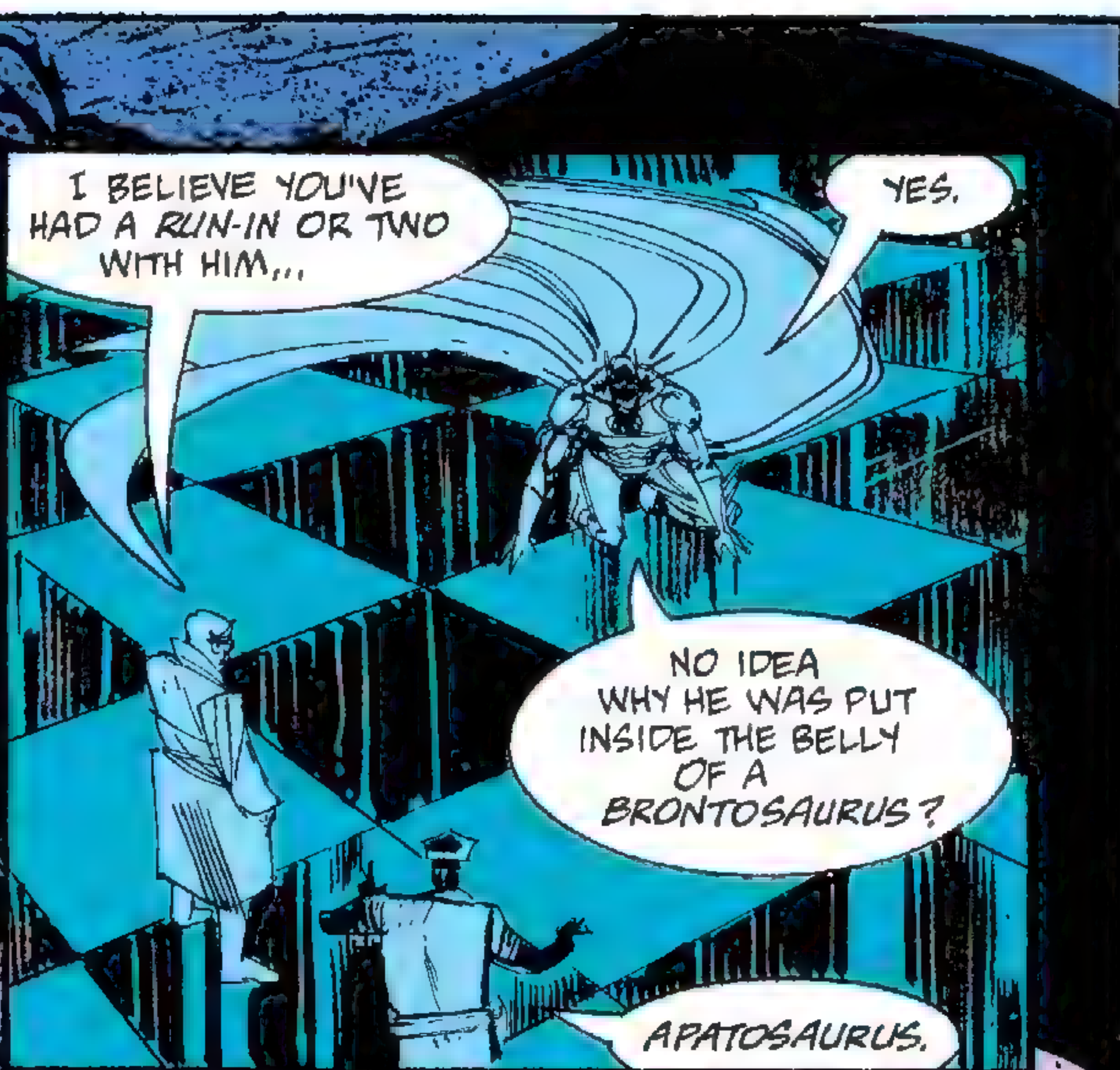




SORRY ABOUT THE SLEEVE, GORDON.

VICTIM'S I.D.?

LEGS LYMAN--
B-TEAM
GANGSTER
ONE OF THE
NEW
BREED...



I BELIEVE YOU'VE HAD A RUN-IN OR TWO WITH HIM...

YES.

NO IDEA WHY HE WAS PUT INSIDE THE BELLY OF A BRONTOSAURUS?

APATOSAURUS.



WHAT?

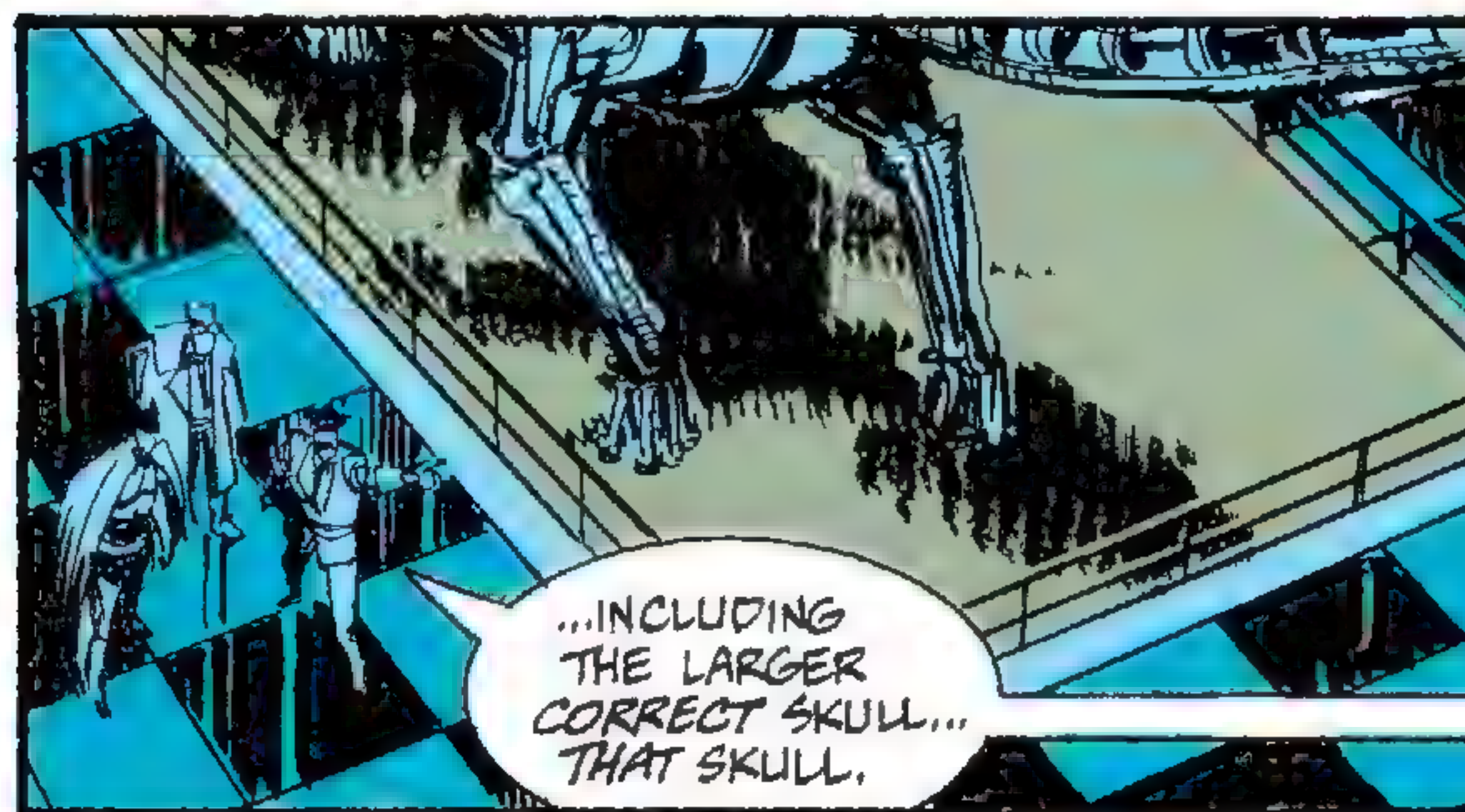
IT'S UH, ACTUALLY AN APATOSAURUS NOW-- USED TO BE CALLED BRONTOSAURUS... UNTIL ALL THE MUSEUMS FINALLY CHANGED THE SKULL.

CHANGED THE SKULL?

YEAH.

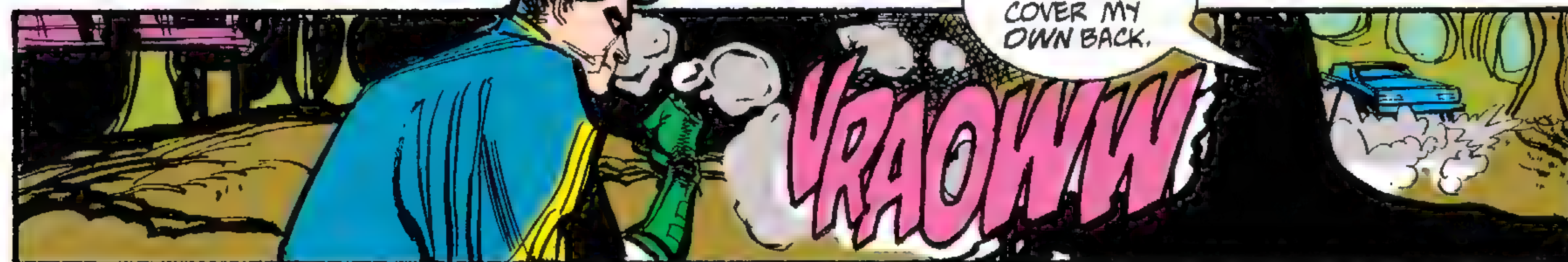
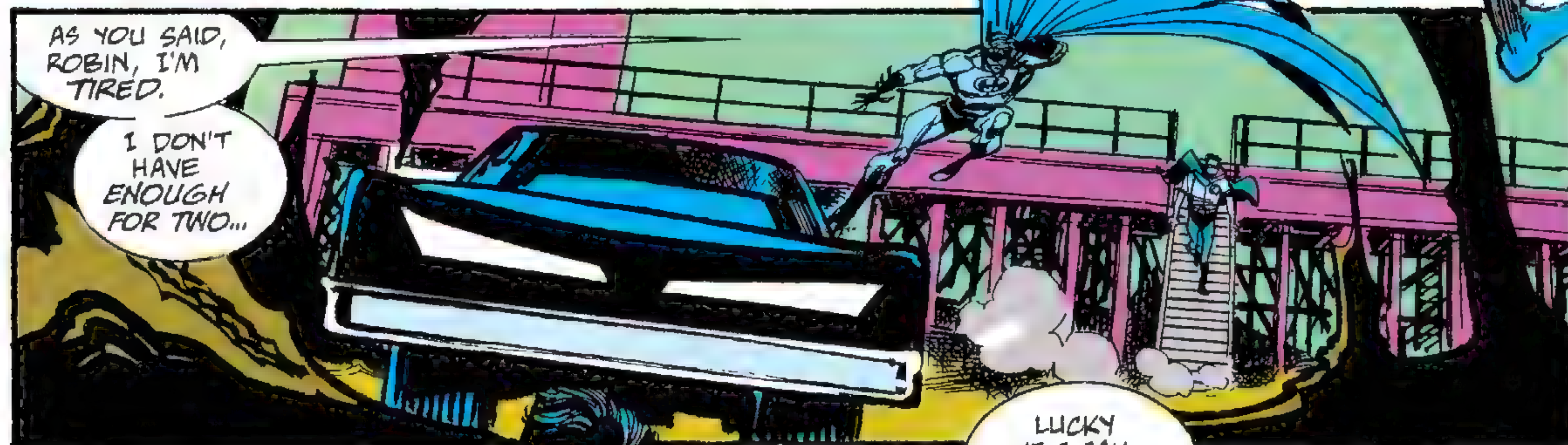
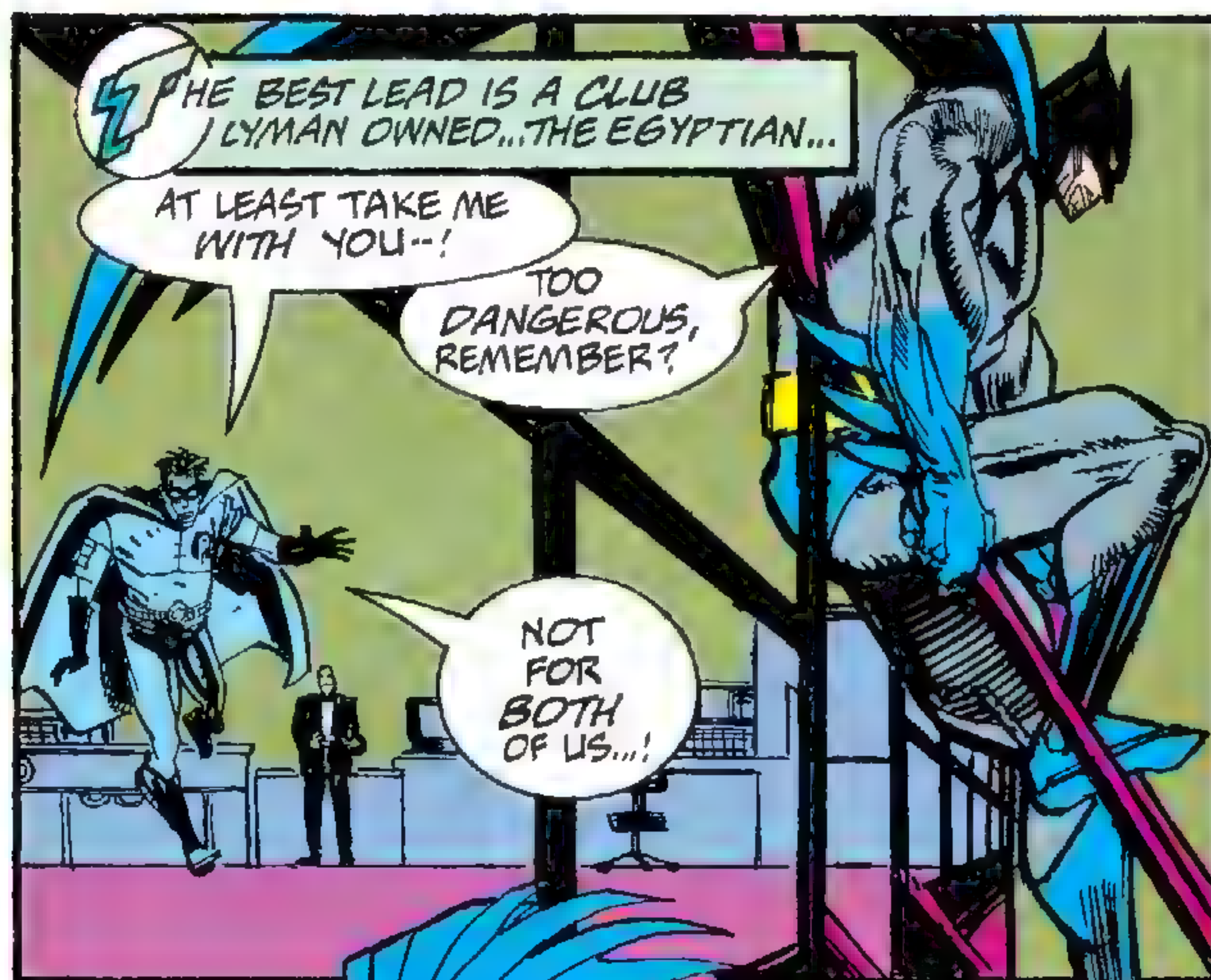
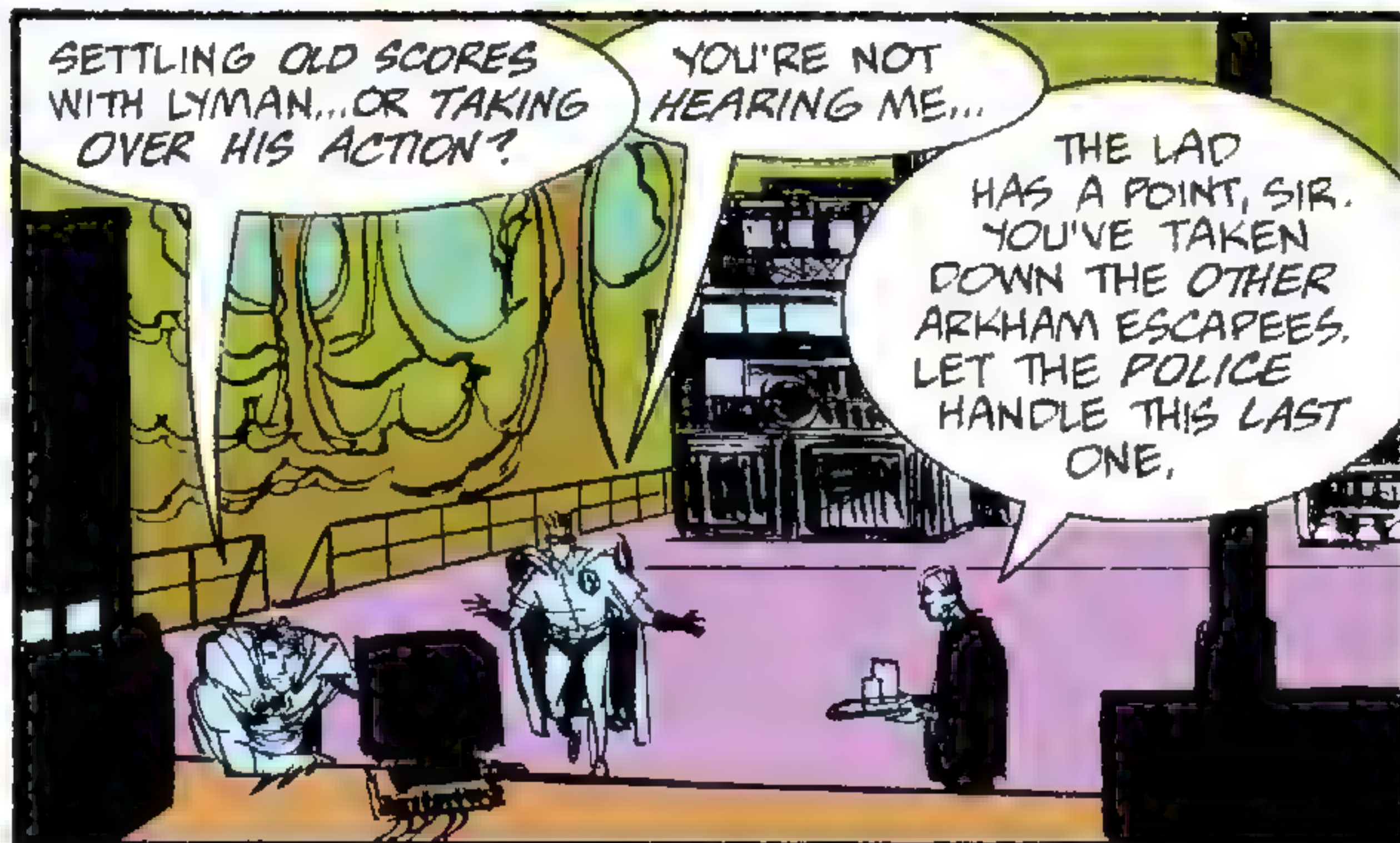
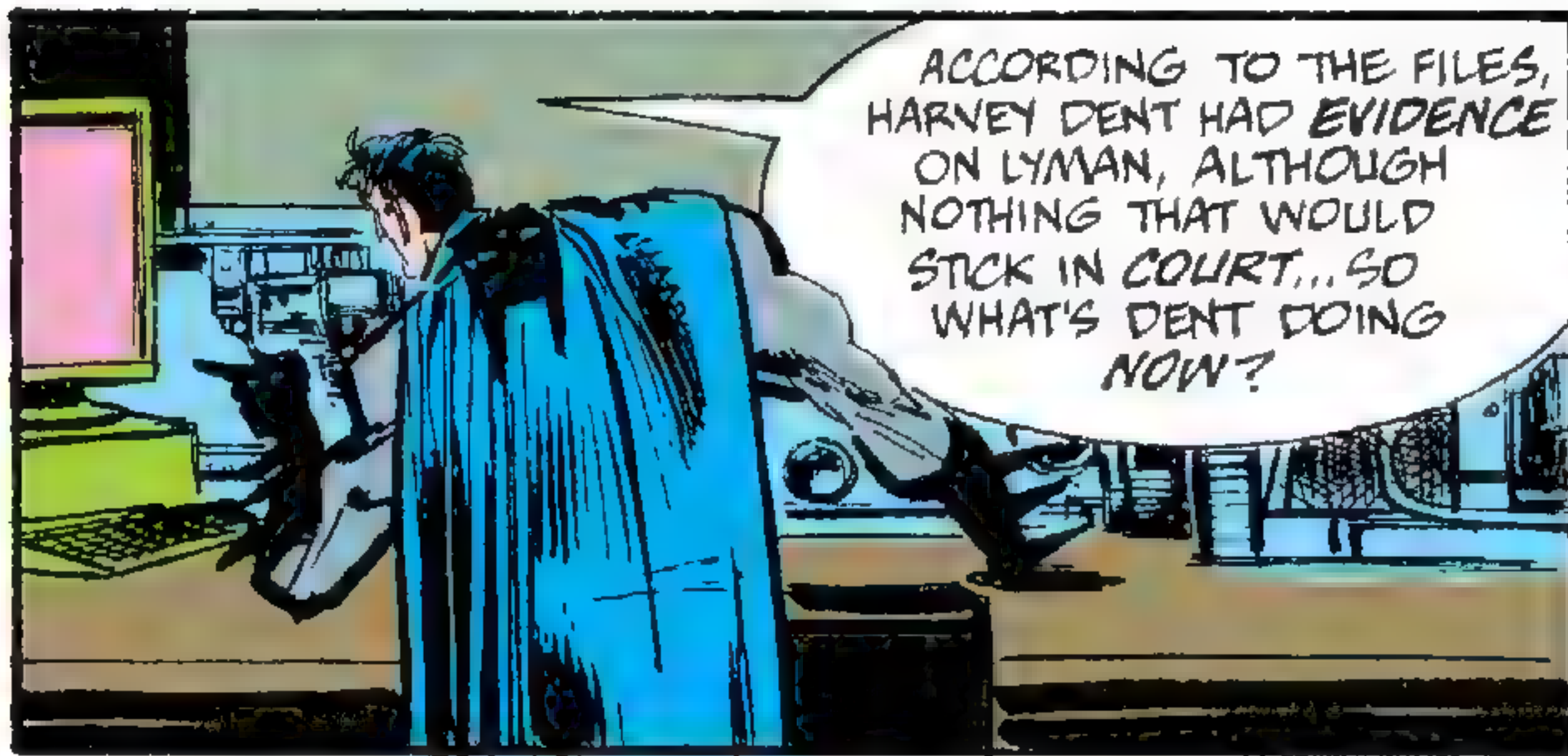
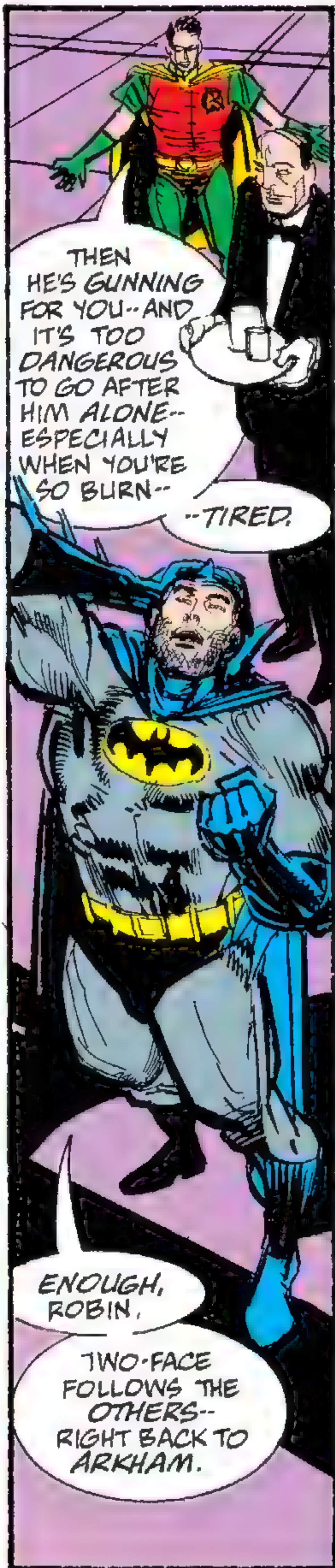
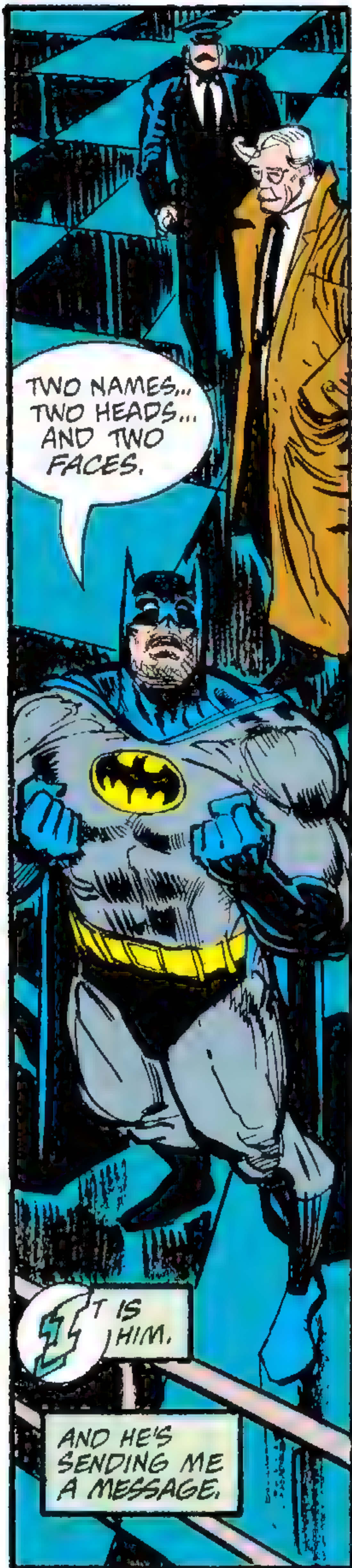


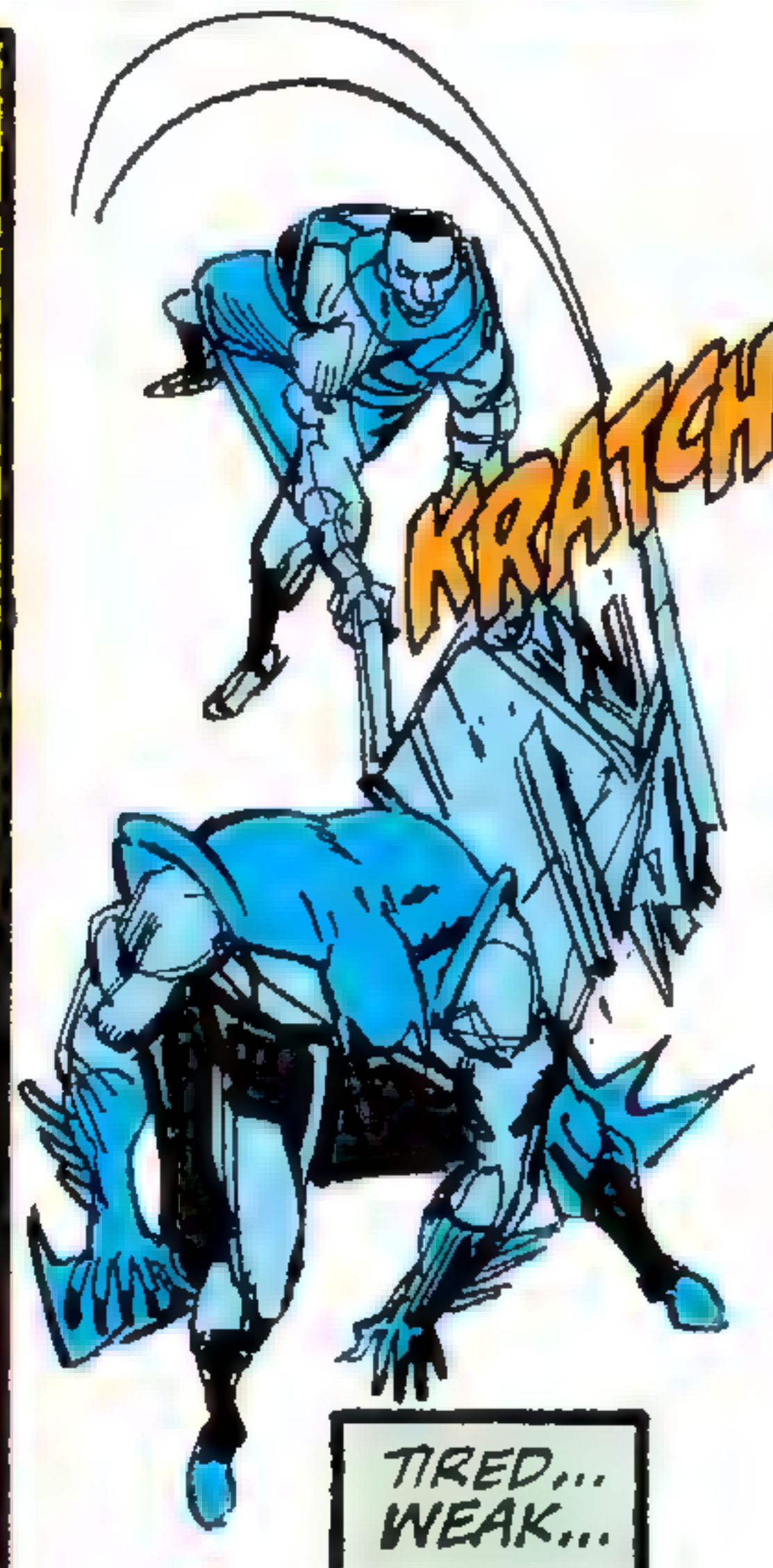
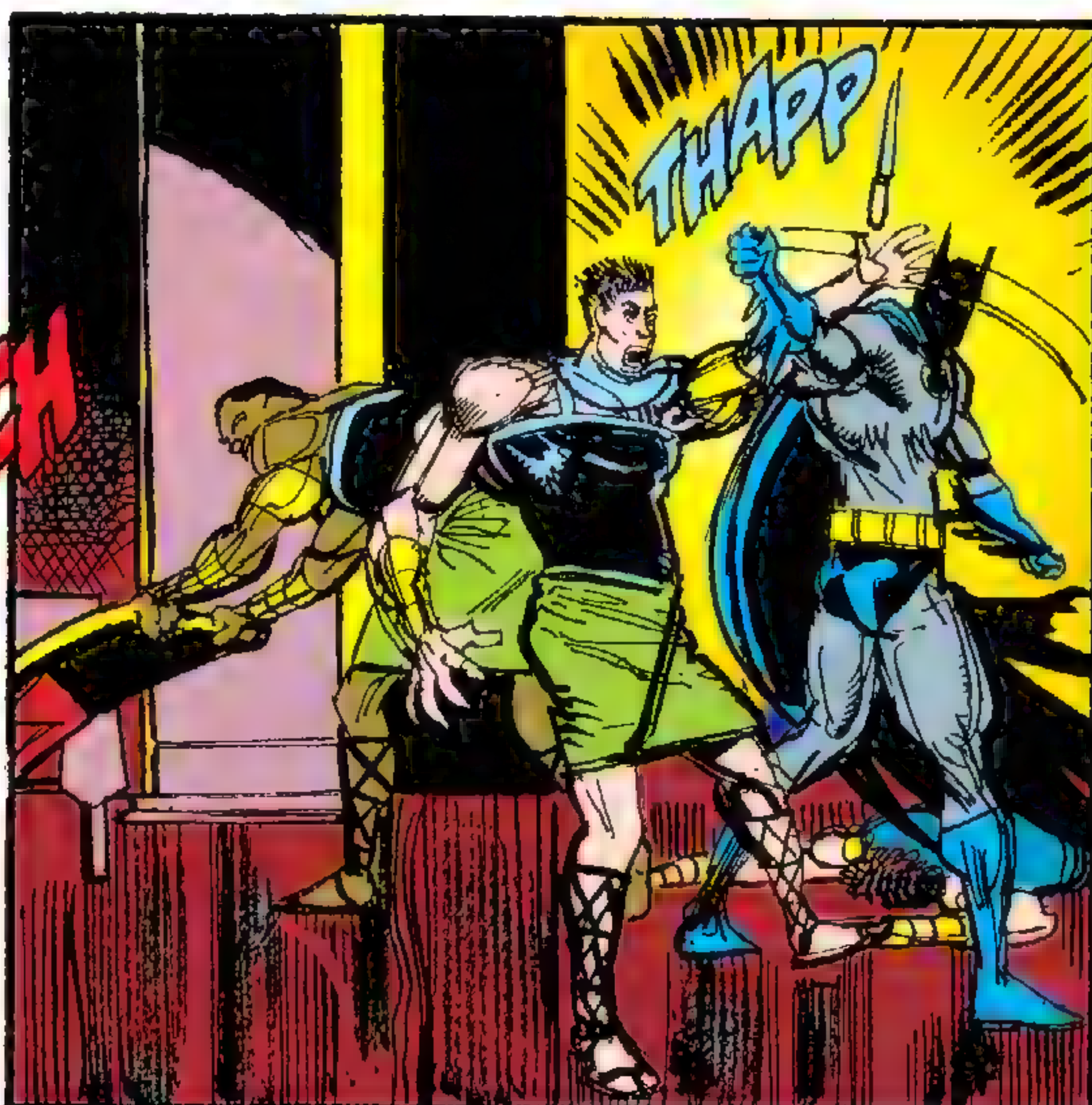
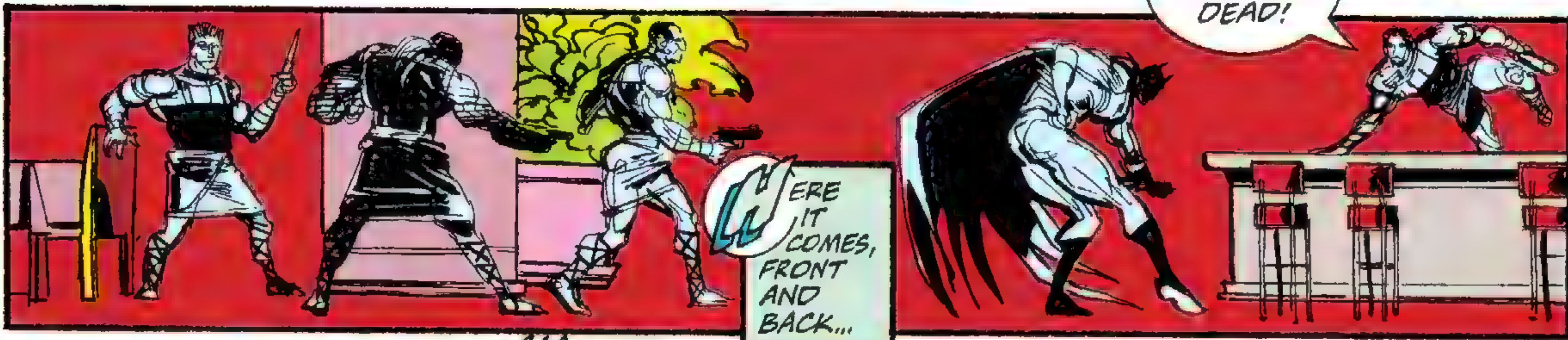
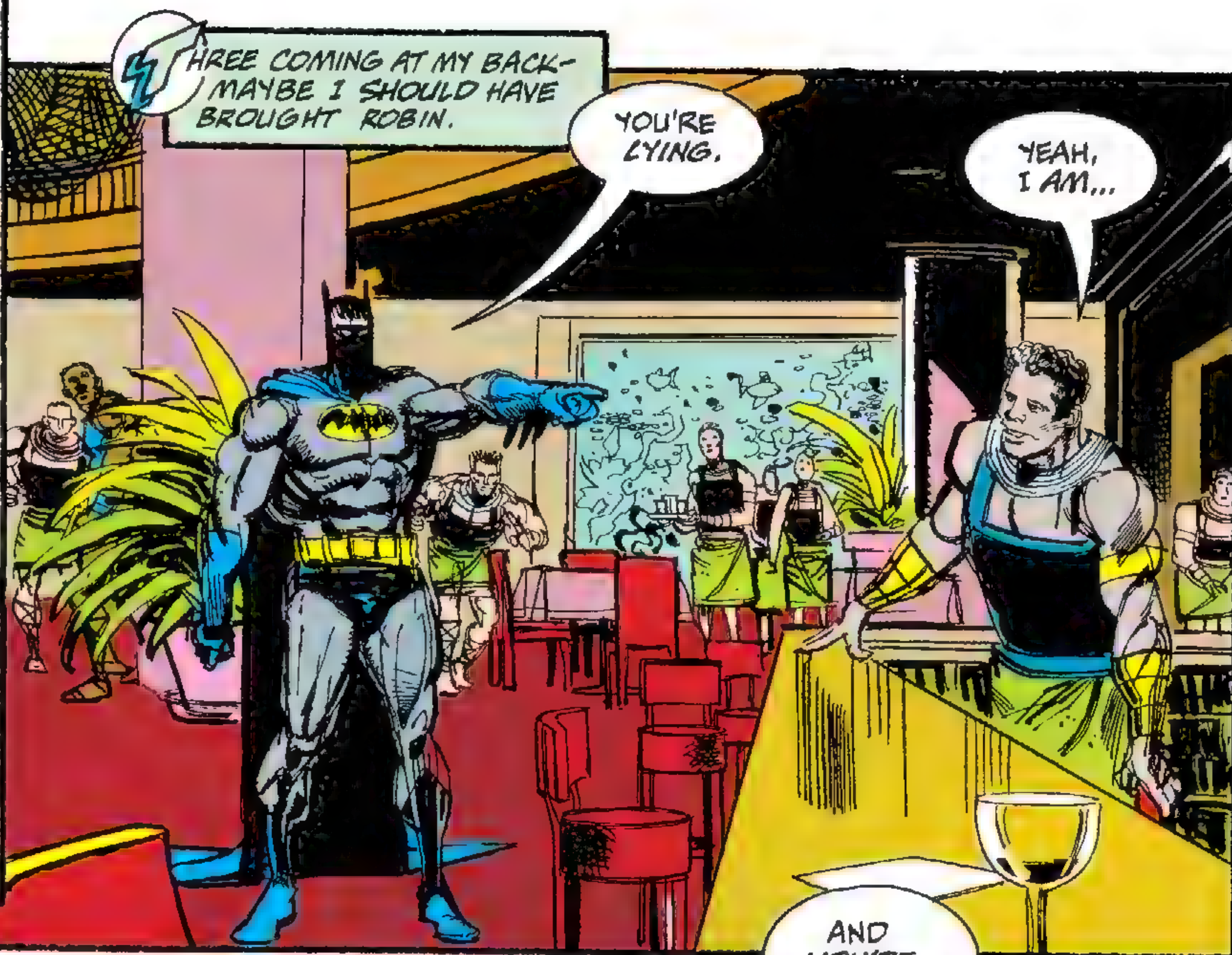
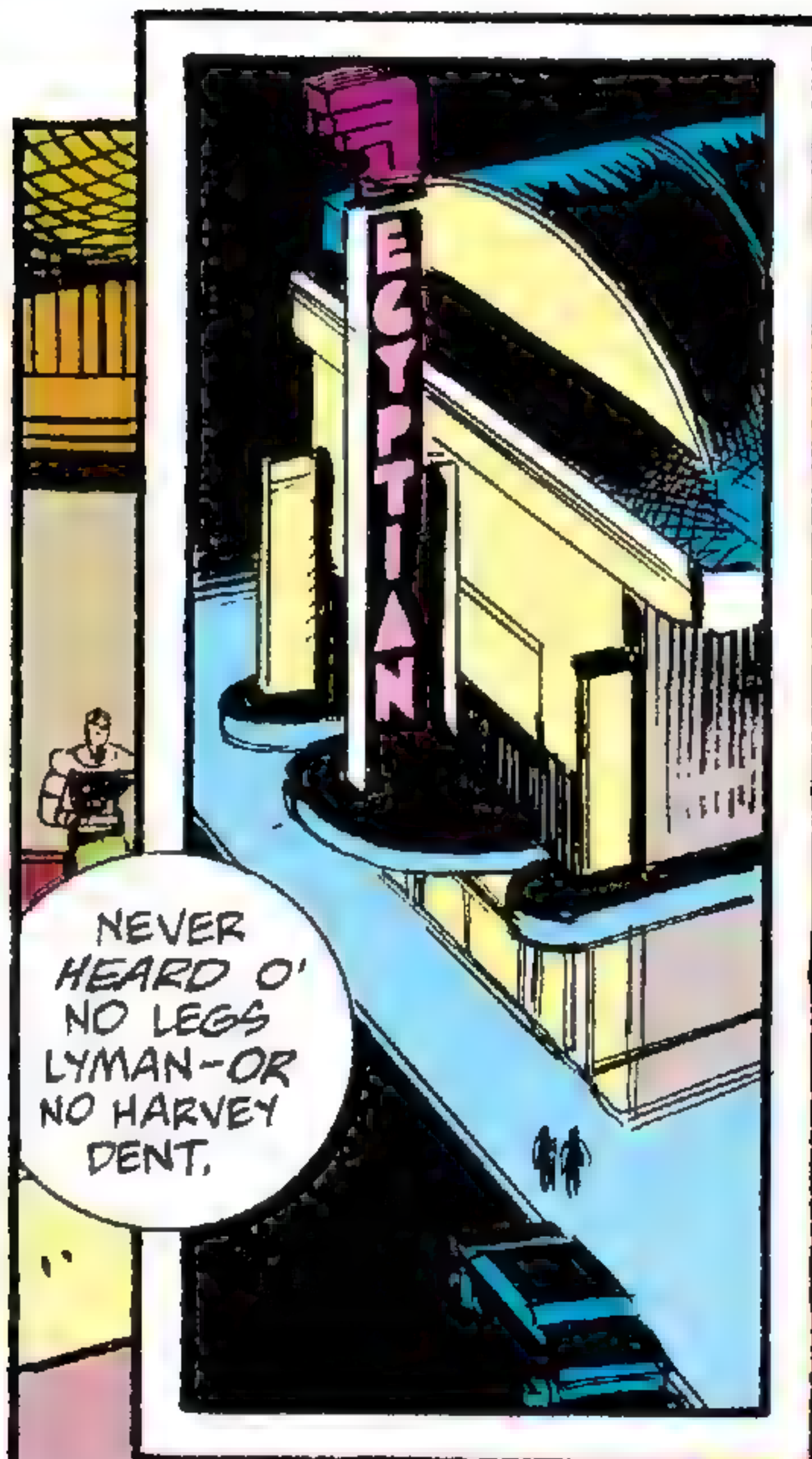
SEE, WHEN THEY FOUND THE FIRST SPECIMEN, WAY BACK, IT WAS MIXED IN WITH OTHER BONES--INCLUDING A SKULL WHICH SEEMED TO FIT BUT WAS ACTUALLY WRONG. NOW THEY'VE FOUND COMPLETE SPECIMENS.

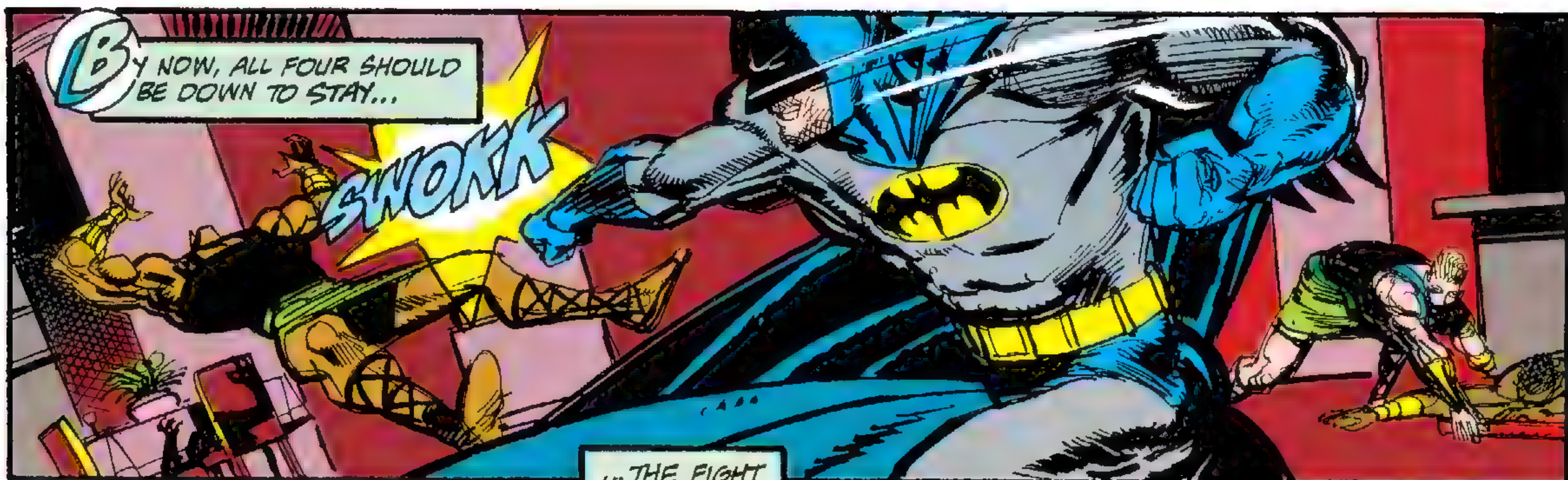


...INCLUDING THE LARGER CORRECT SKULL... THAT SKULL.

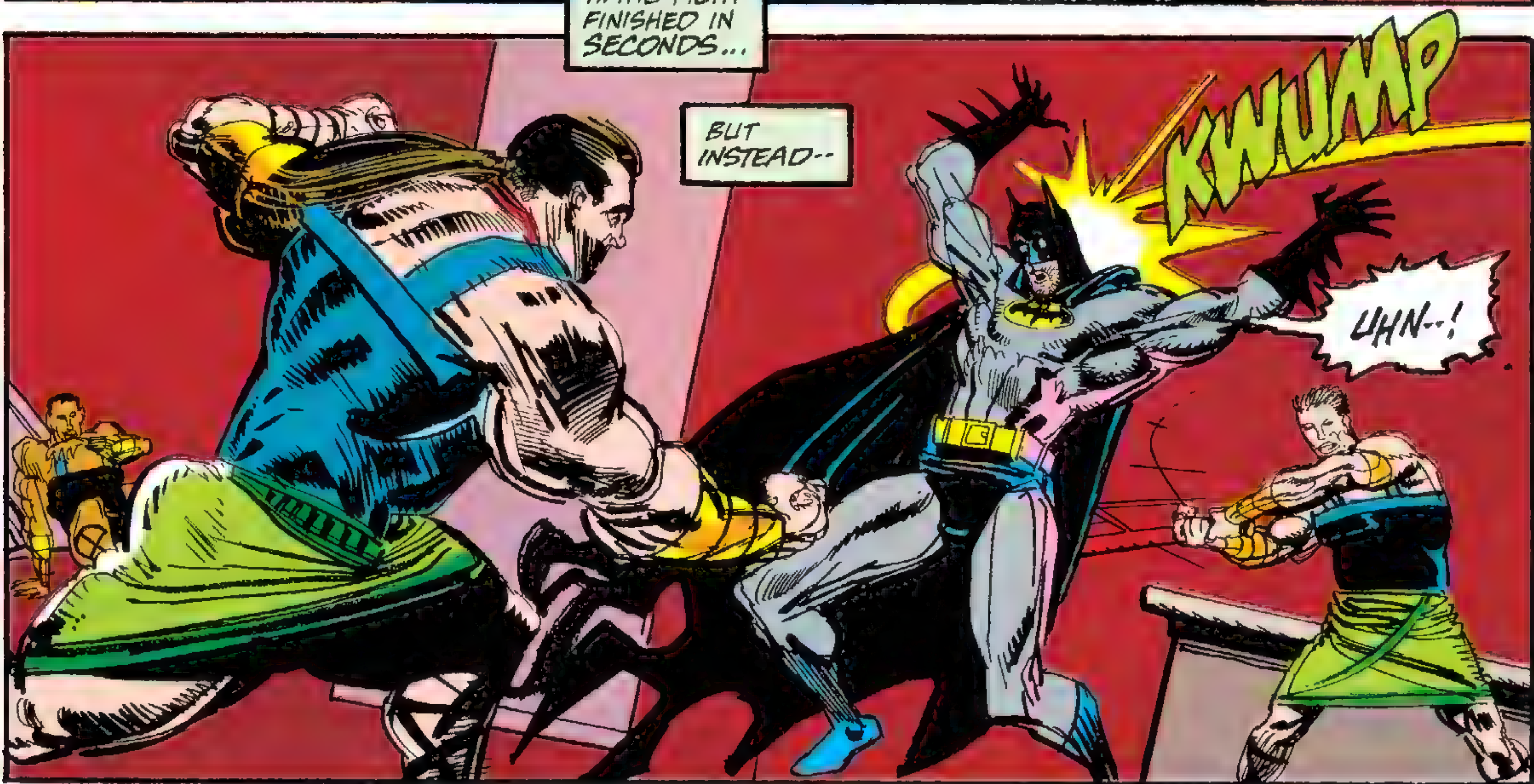
THE ONLY DINOSAUR IN HISTORY--OR PREHISTORY, ANYWAY-- TO HAVE TWO NAMES AND TWO HEADS.



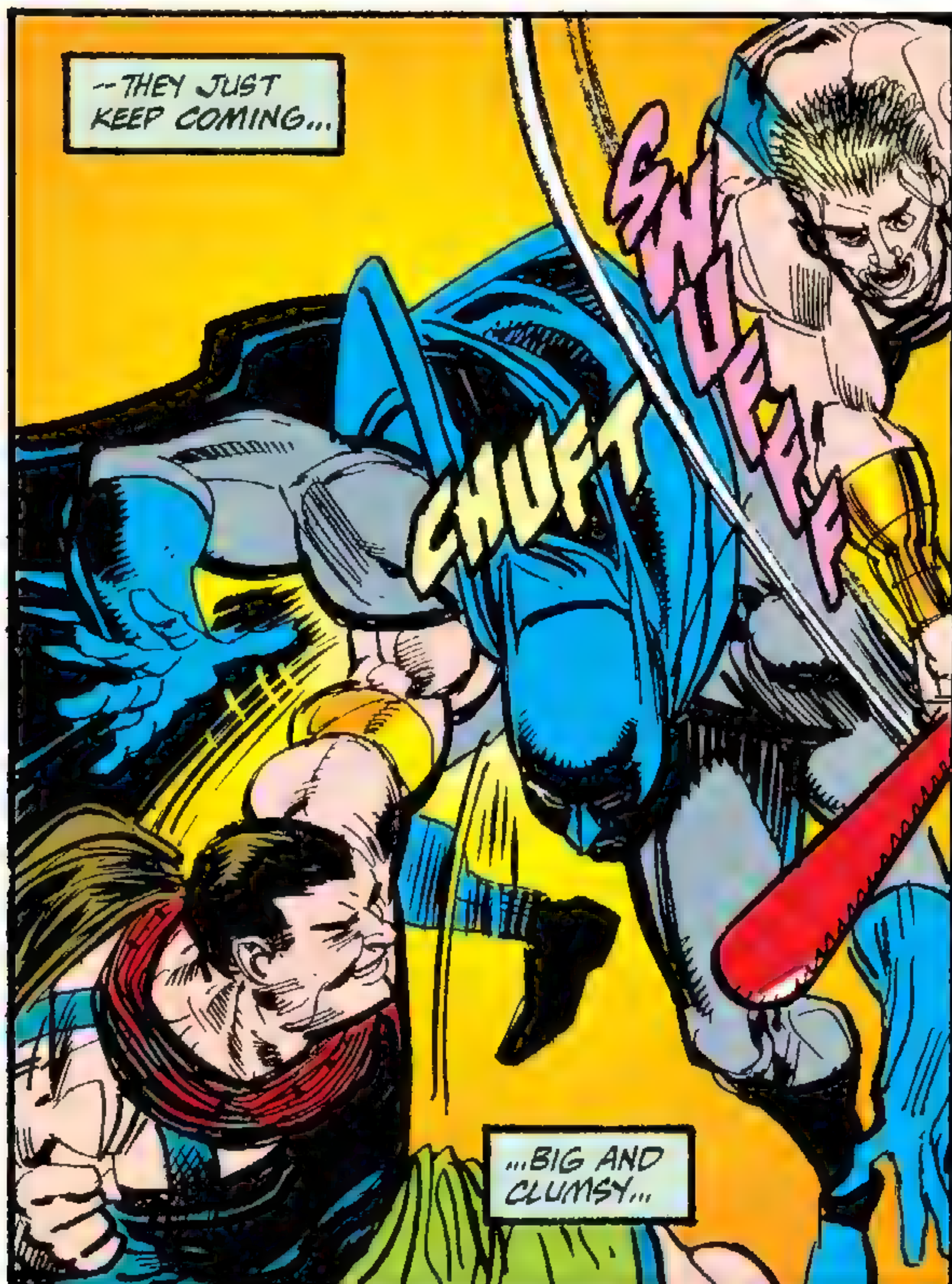




...THE FIGHT
FINISHED IN
SECONDS...



UHN--!



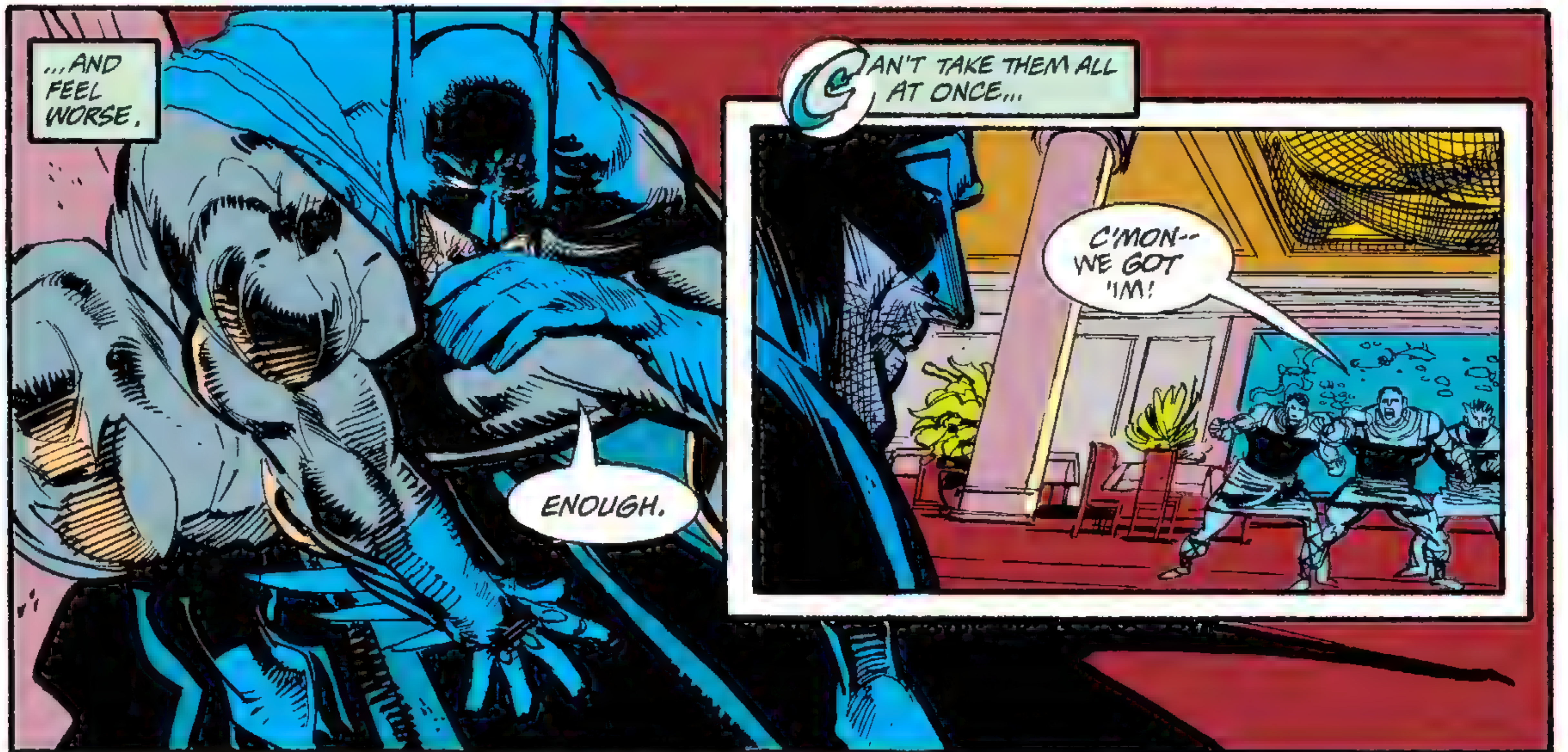
...BIG AND
CLUMSY...



CHUB

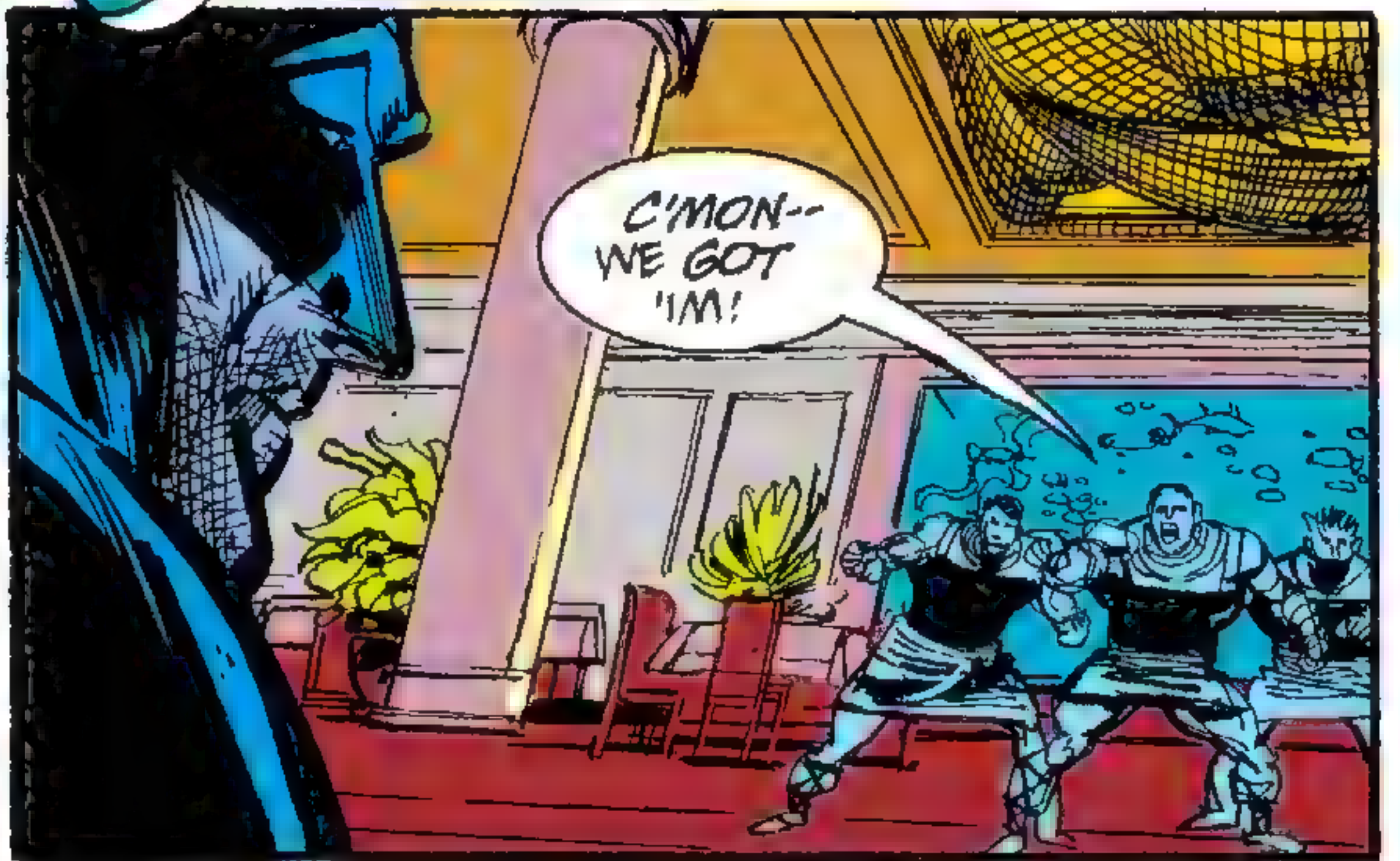


...BUT STILL MAKING
ME LOOK BAD...



...AND
FEEL
WORSE.

CAN'T TAKE THEM ALL
AT ONCE...

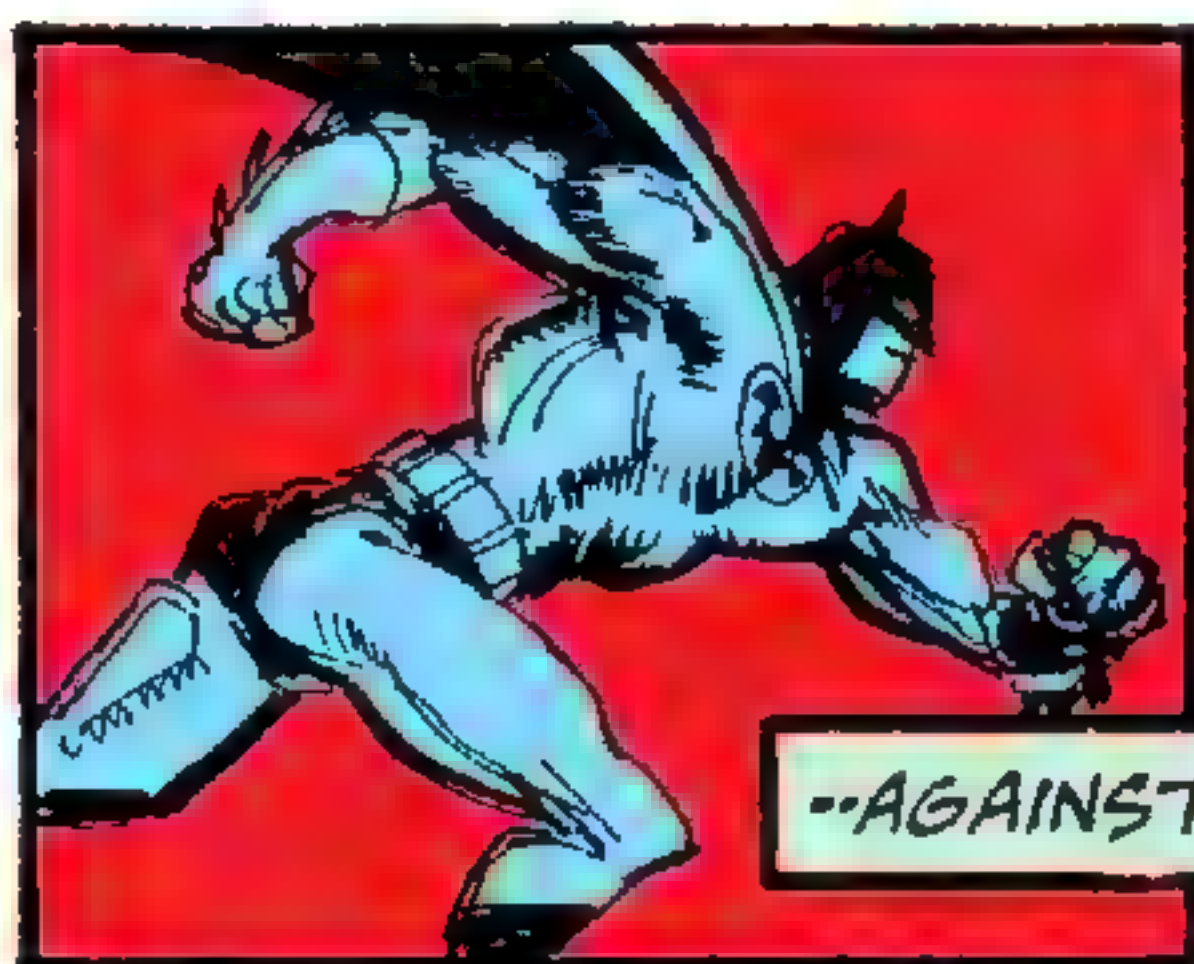


C'MON--
WE GOT
'IM!

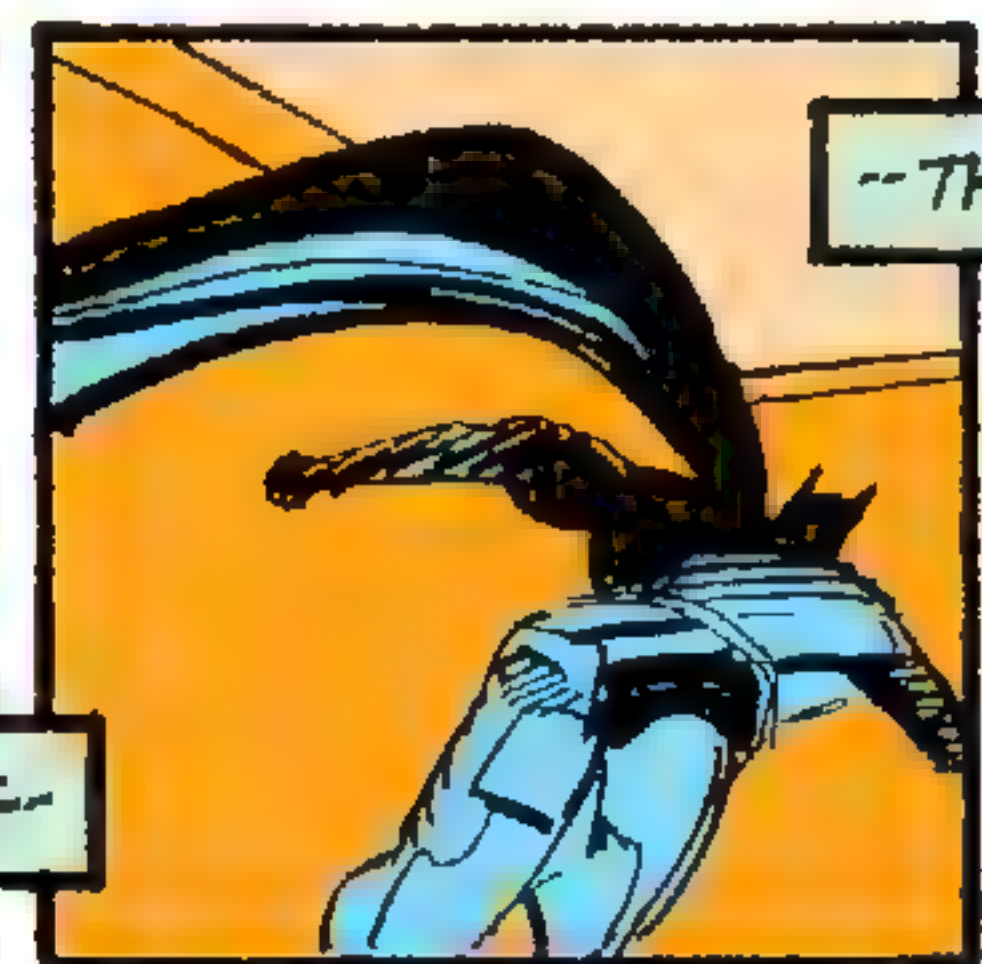
ENOUGH.



GOT TO USE
ONE--



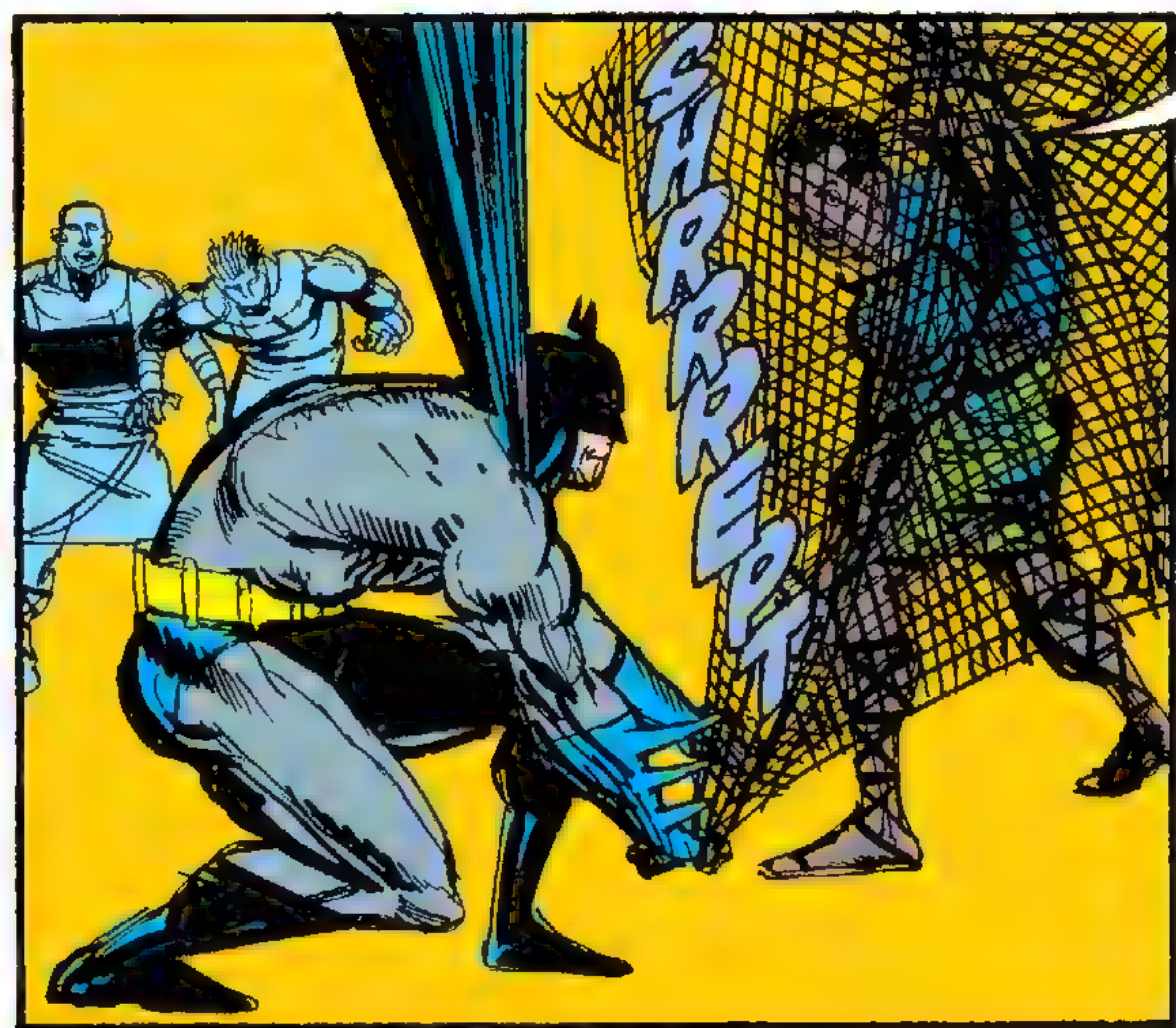
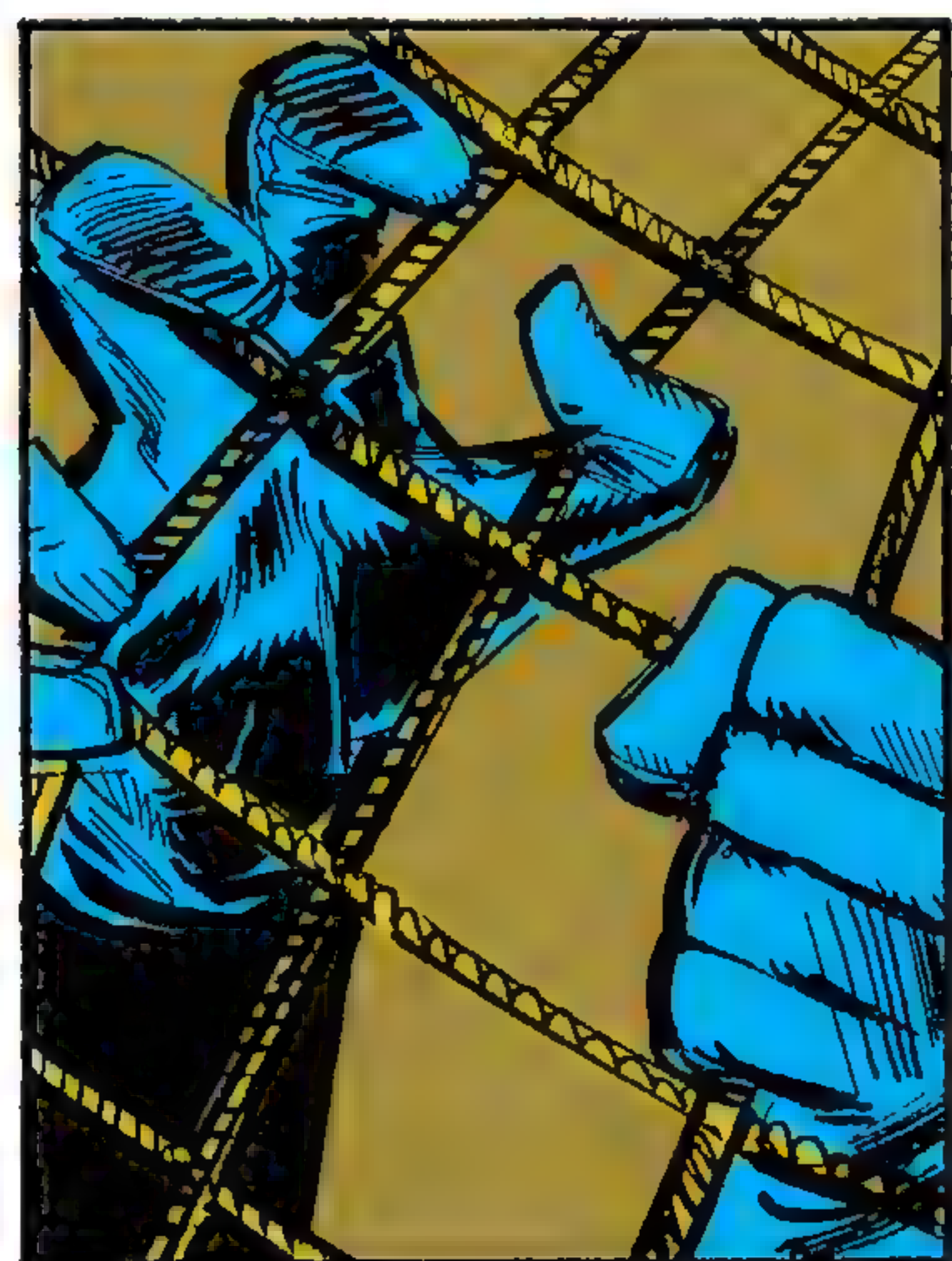
--AGAINST--



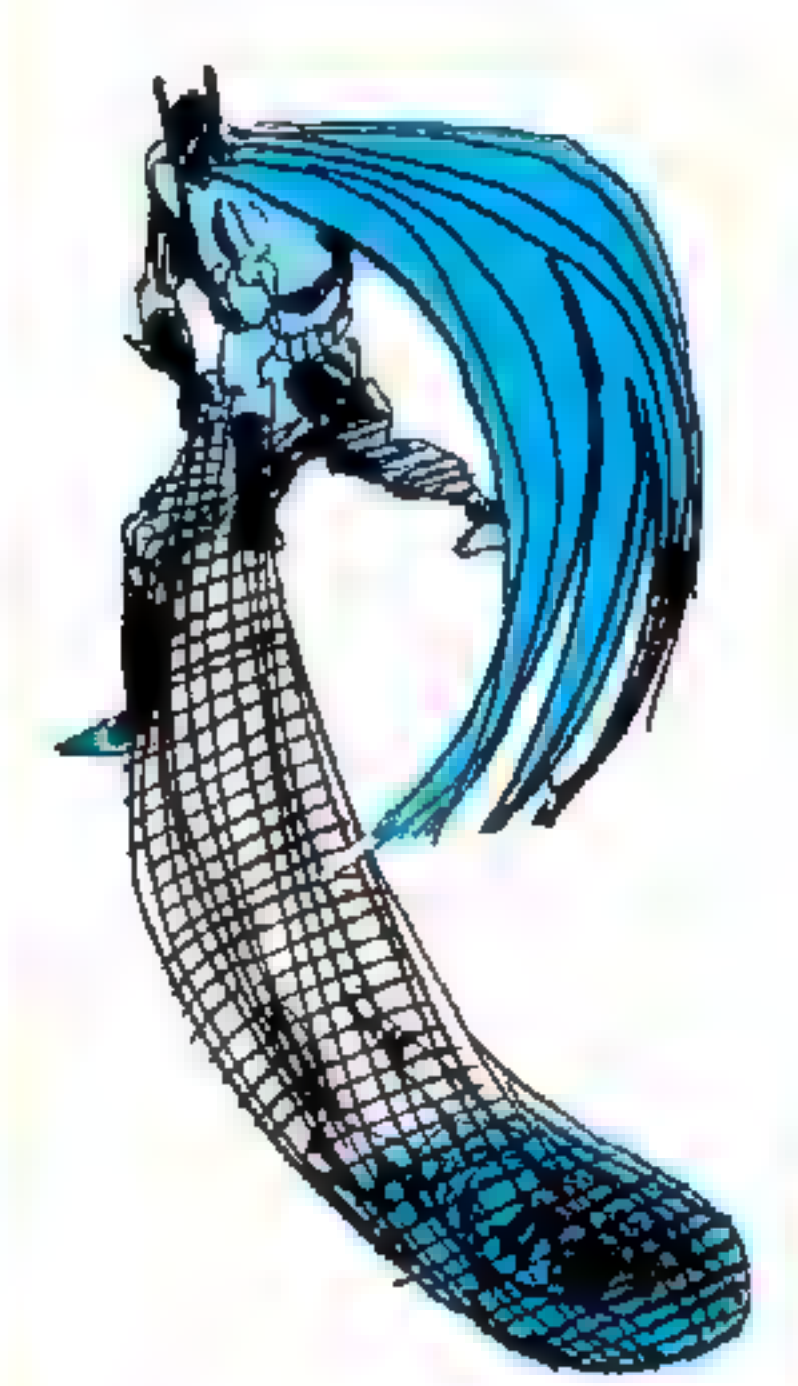
--THE--

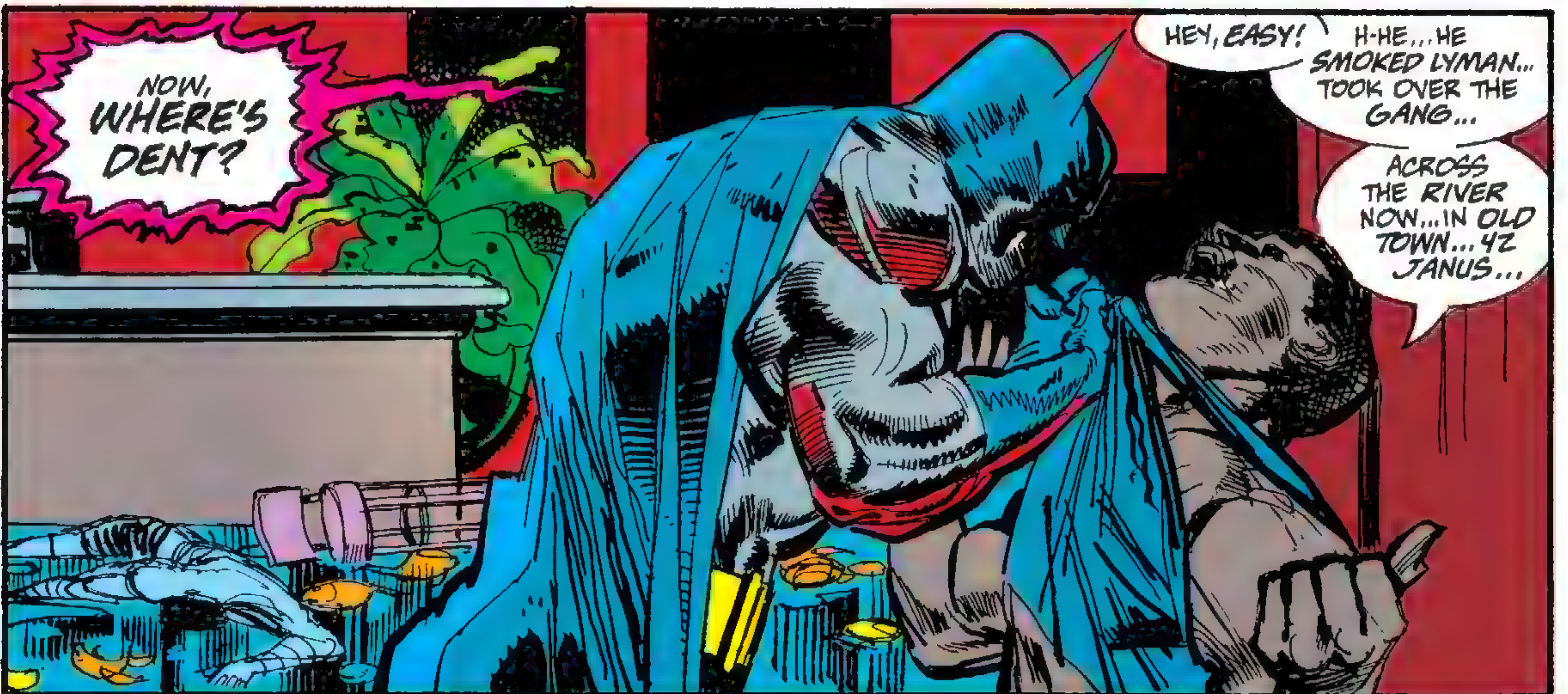
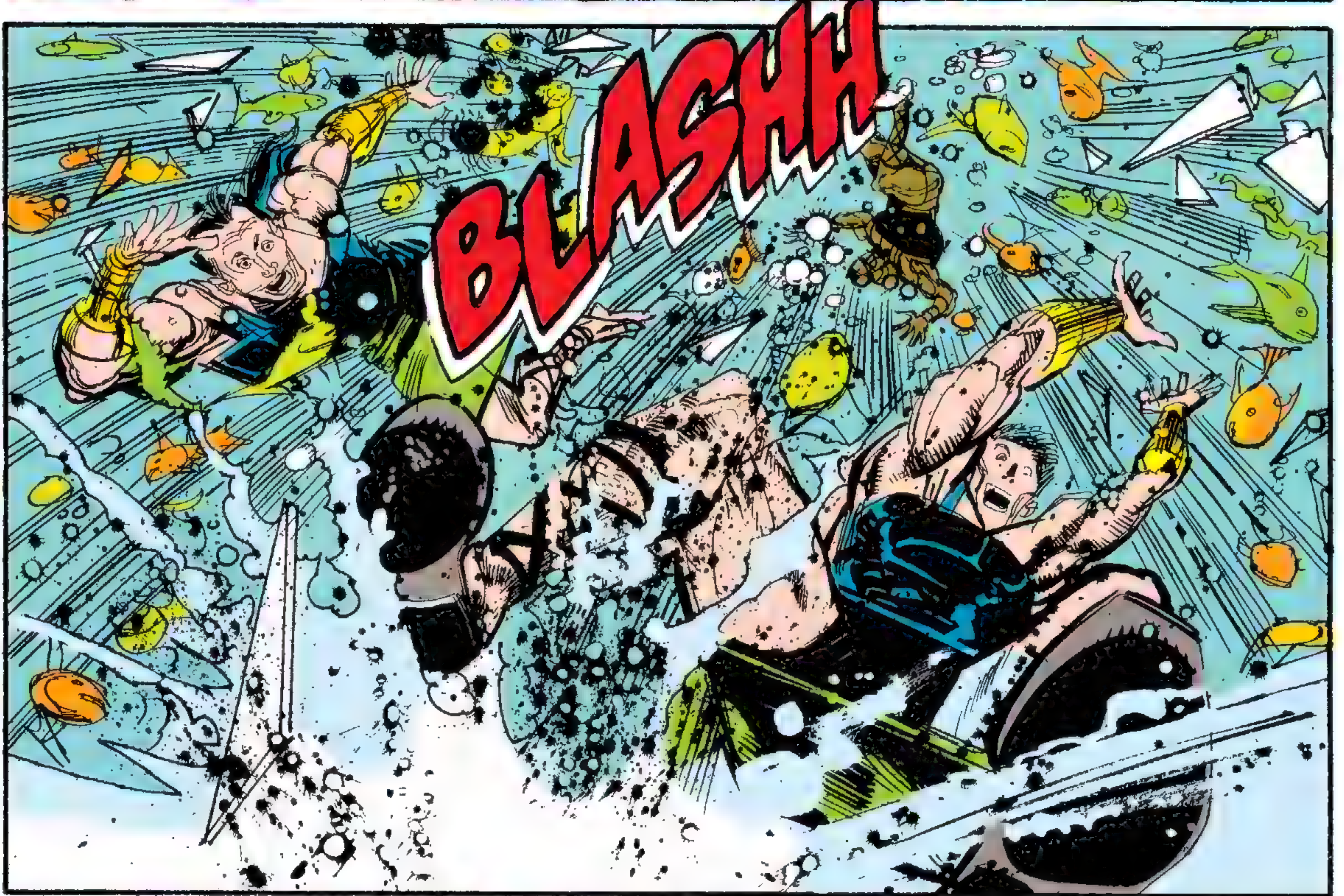
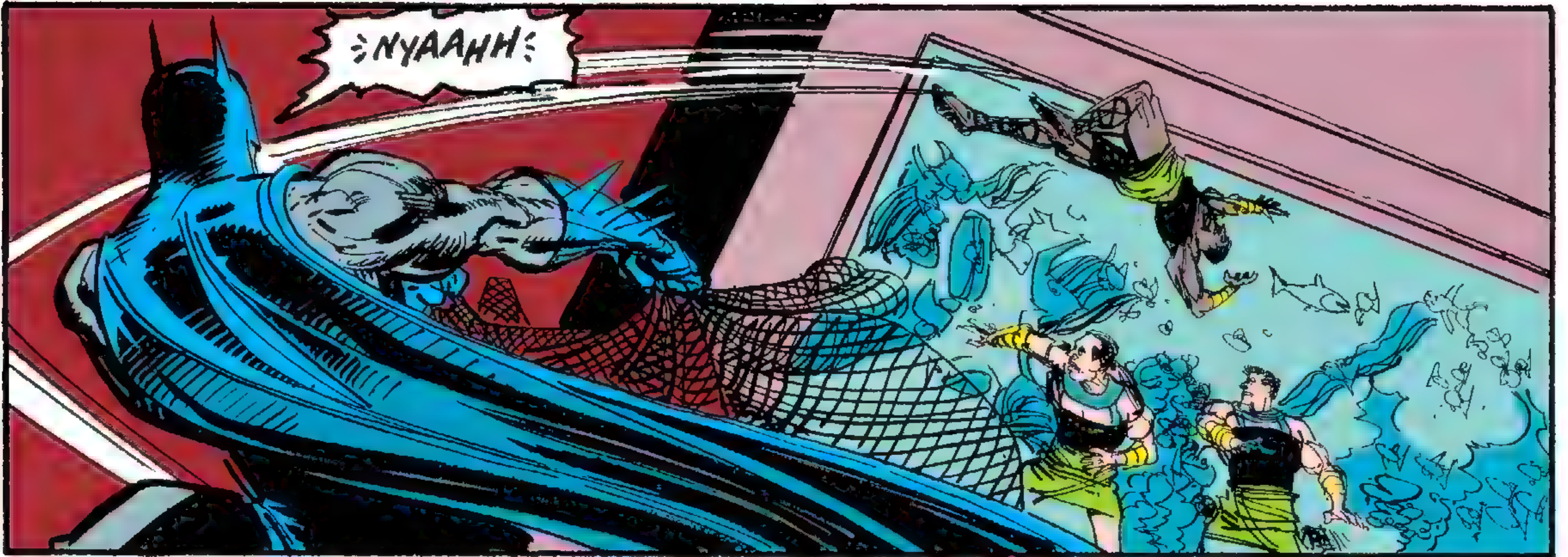


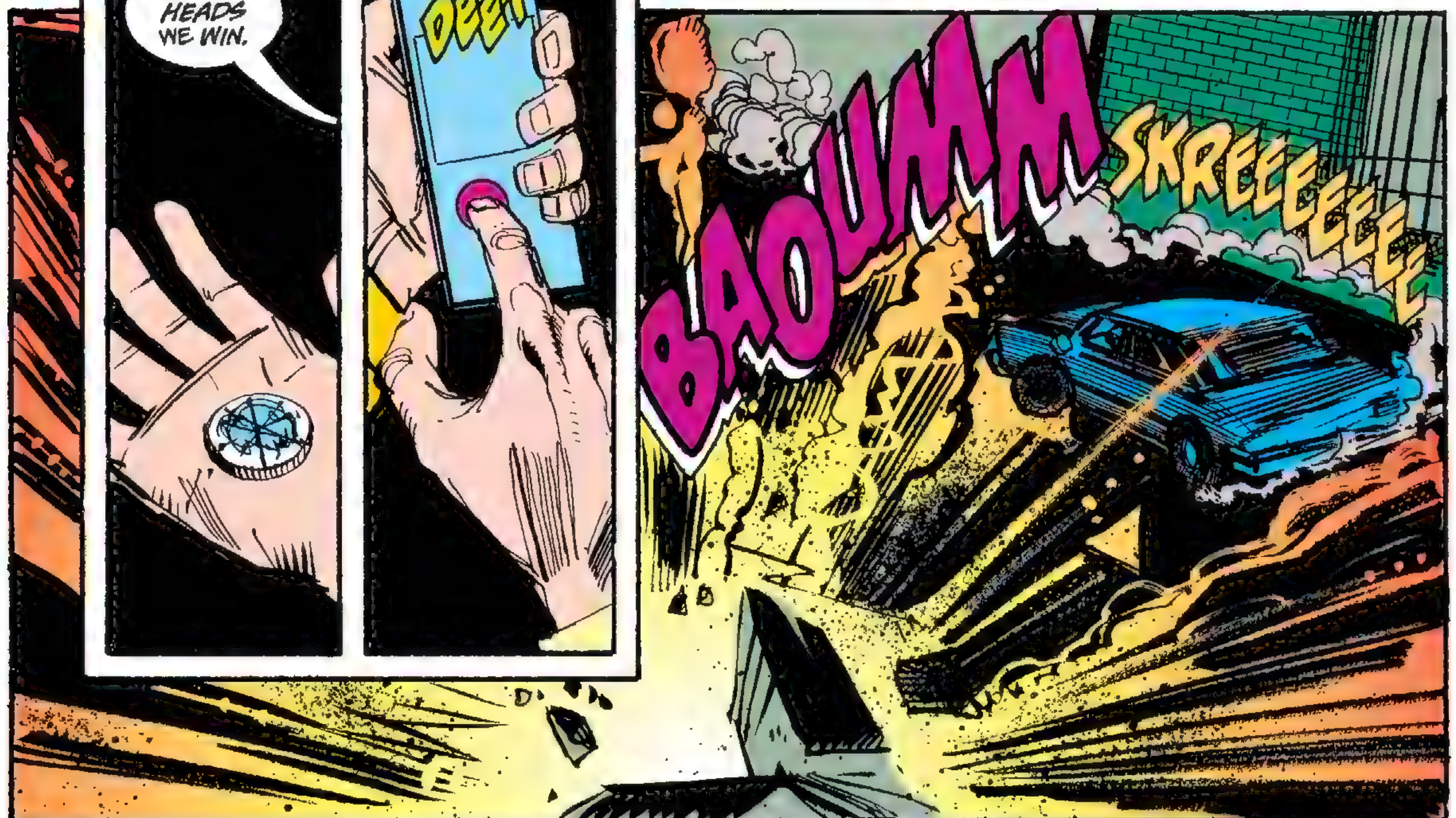
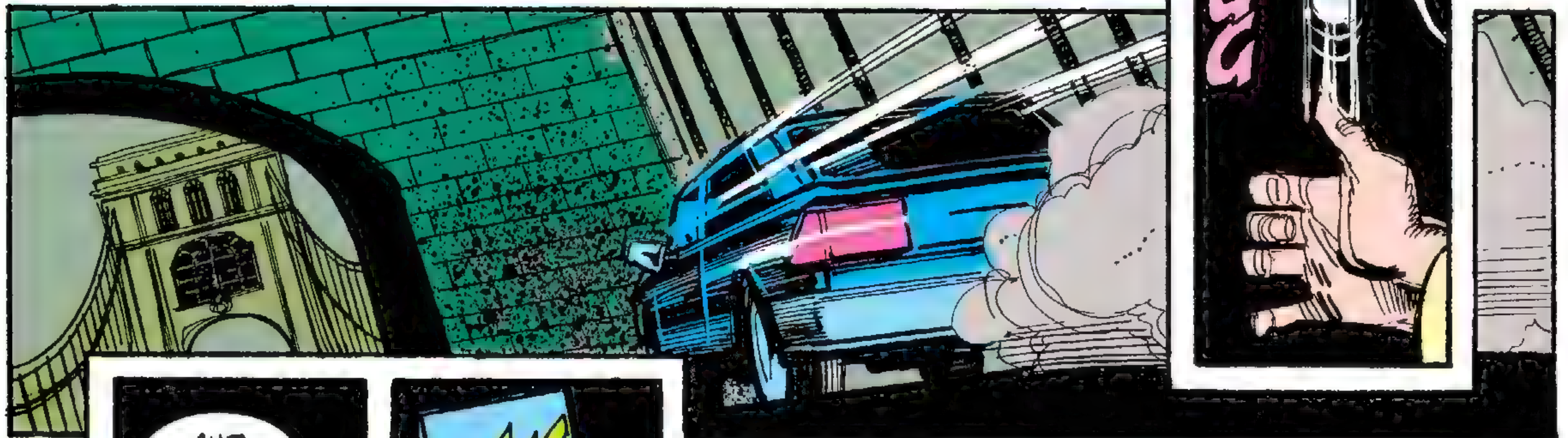
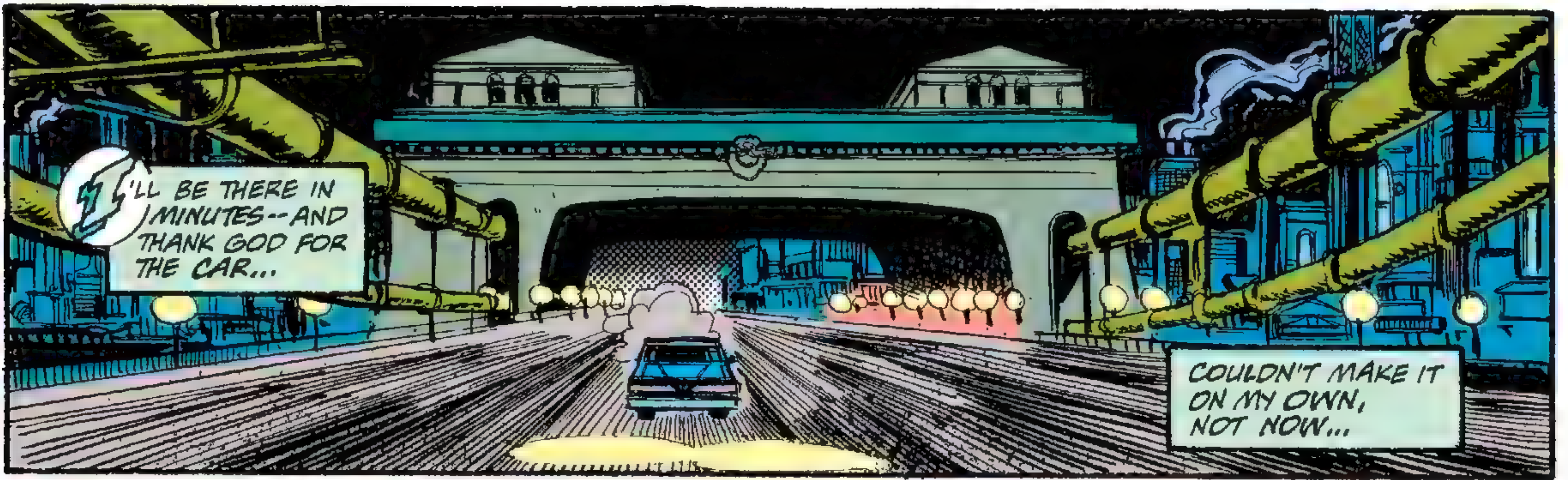
--OTHERS.

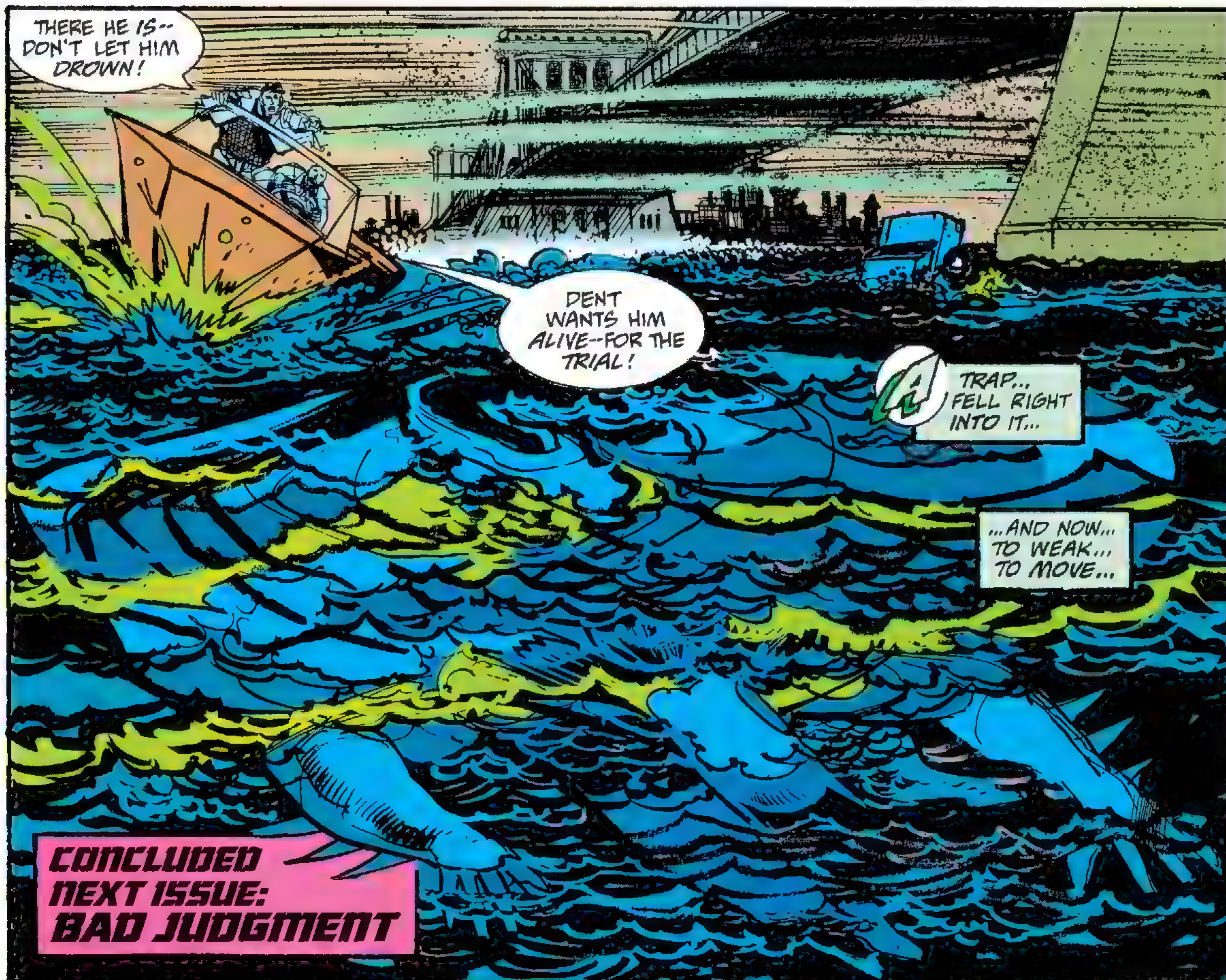
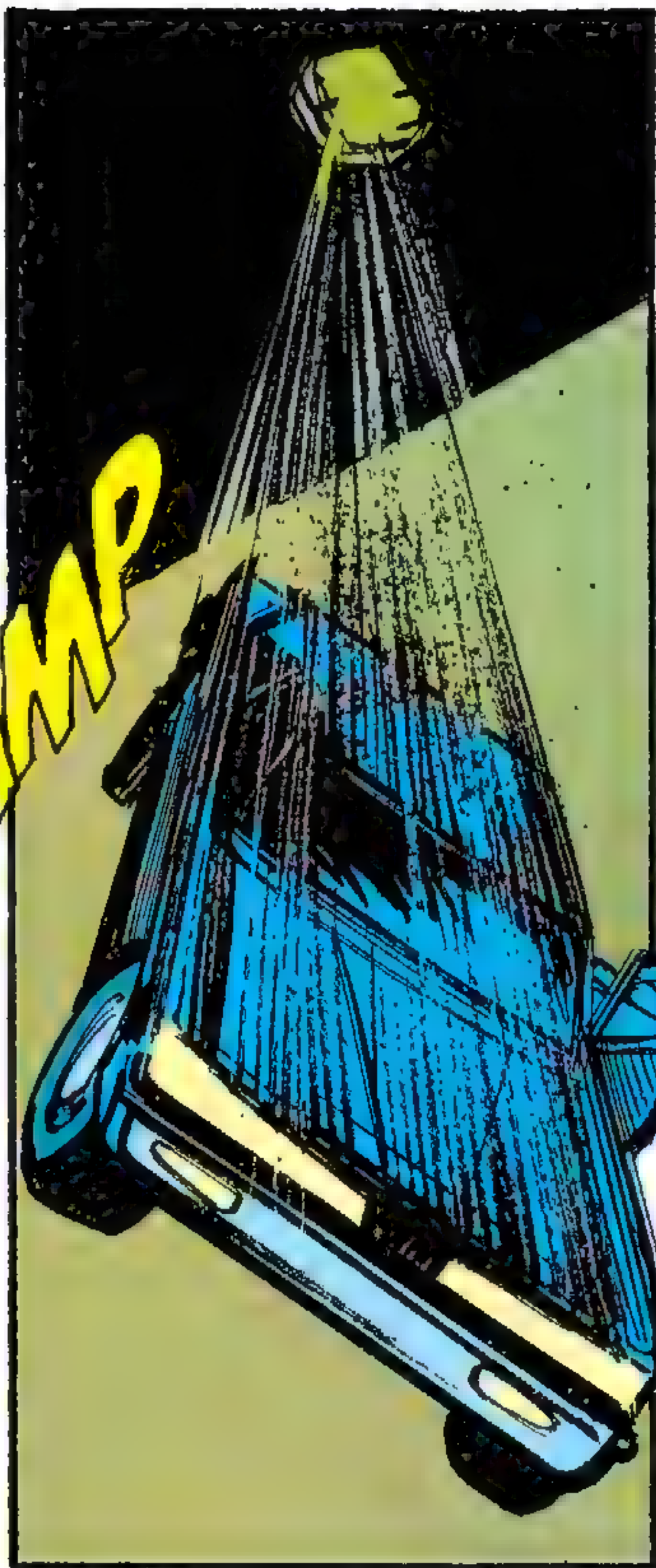


WH-WHAT
THE--?









K NIGHTFALL

14

TWO-FACE

STEWART & CASPES

8
OF TWELVE

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

BATMAN
DEADSHOT
FIRE & ICE

TM



Cover art by
GLENN FABRY

FACE
PART 2
RAW
COMMENTS

GOATHAM RIVER--
MIDWAY BETWEEN
ROXBURY AND OLD
TOWN, HALFWAY
BETWEEN THE TWO
SIDES OF GOATHAM...

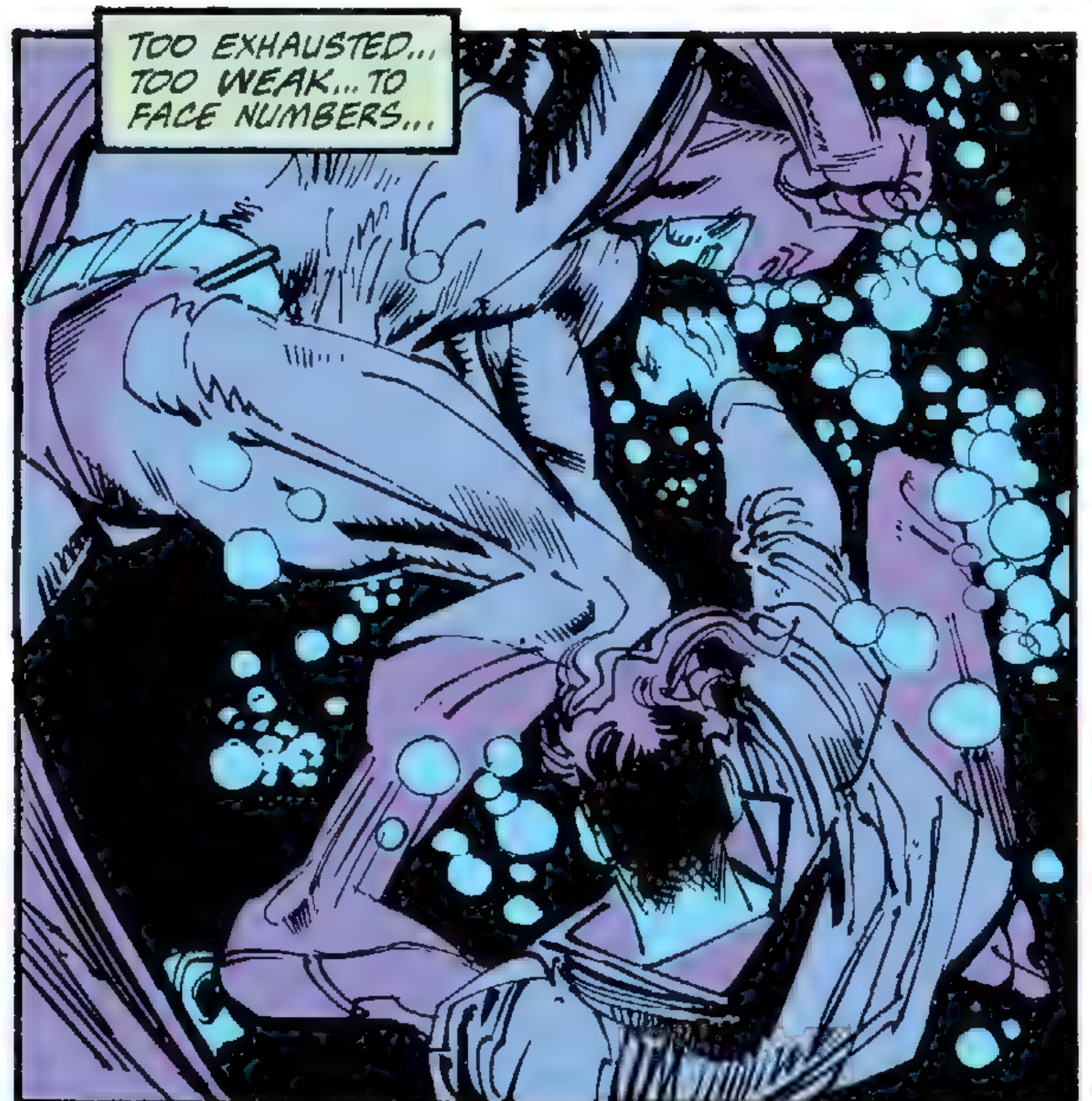
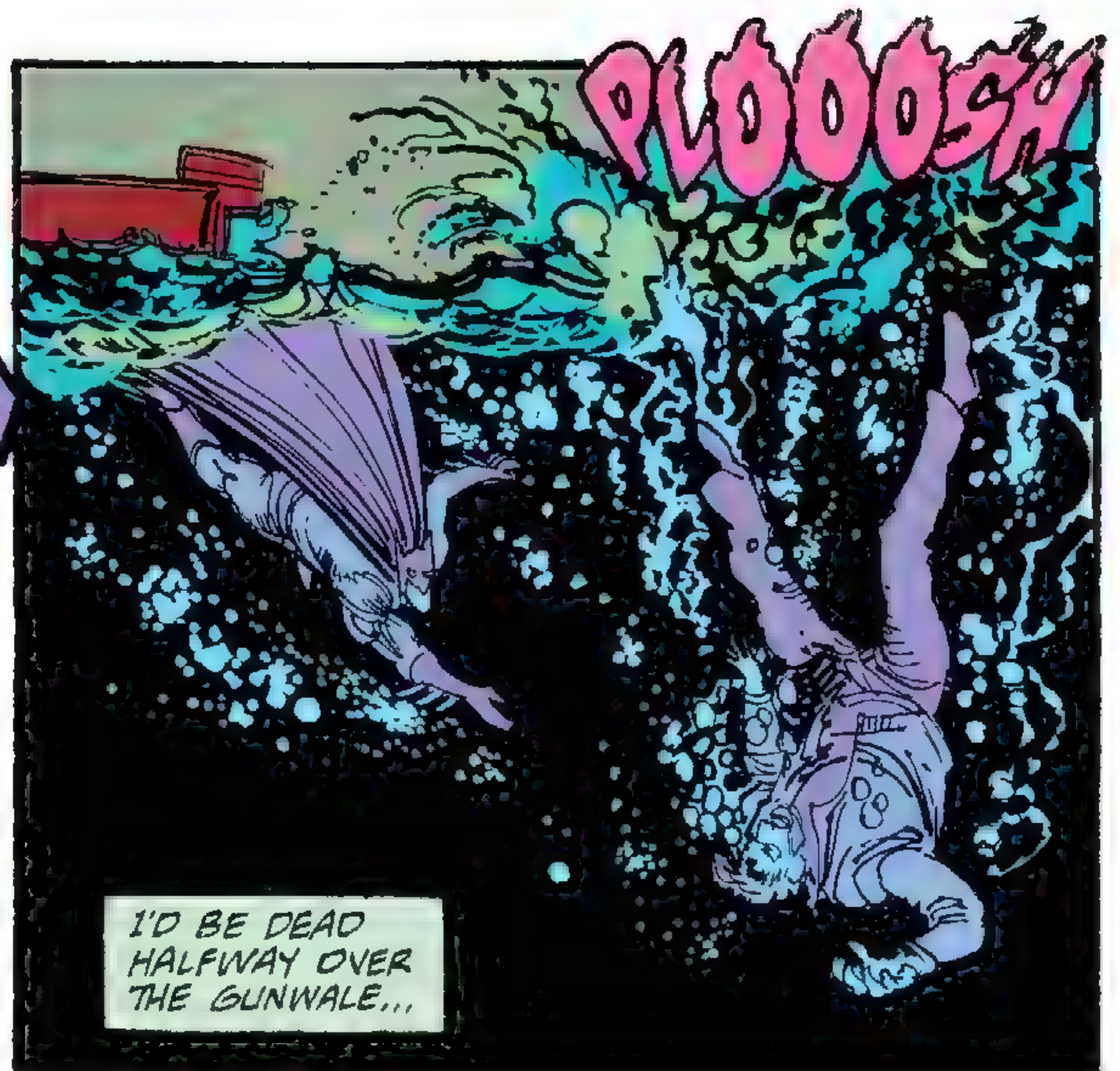
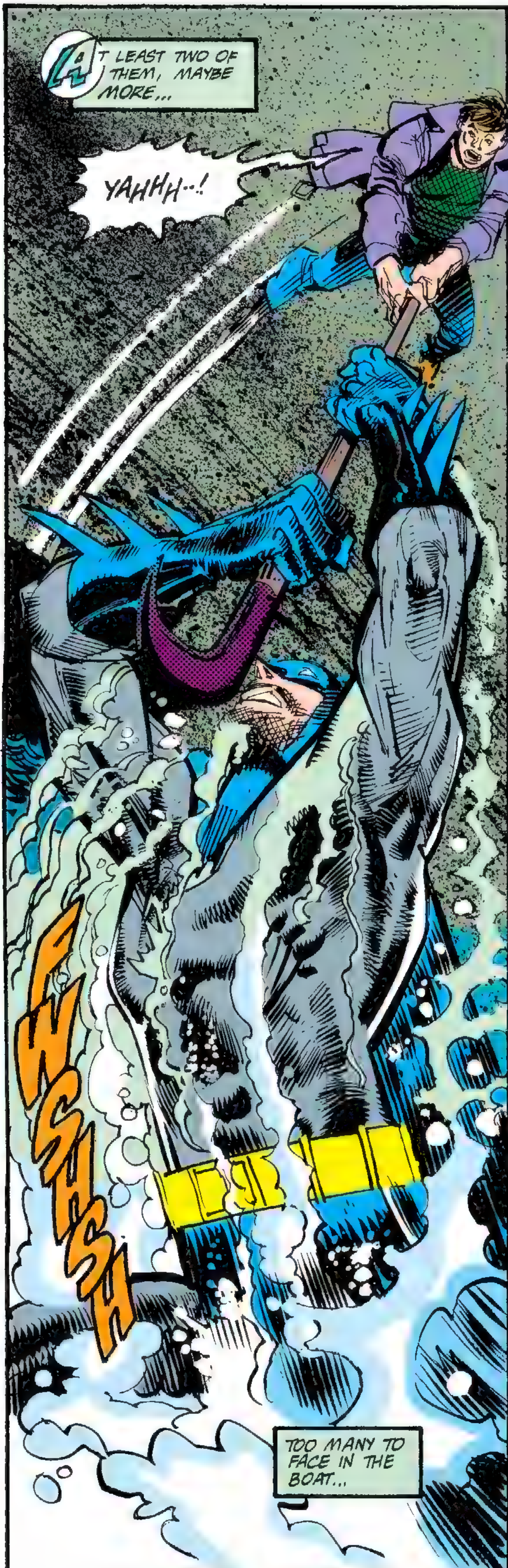
GUN IT!
IF HE DROWNS,
TWO-FACE'LL
CUT US IN
HALF!

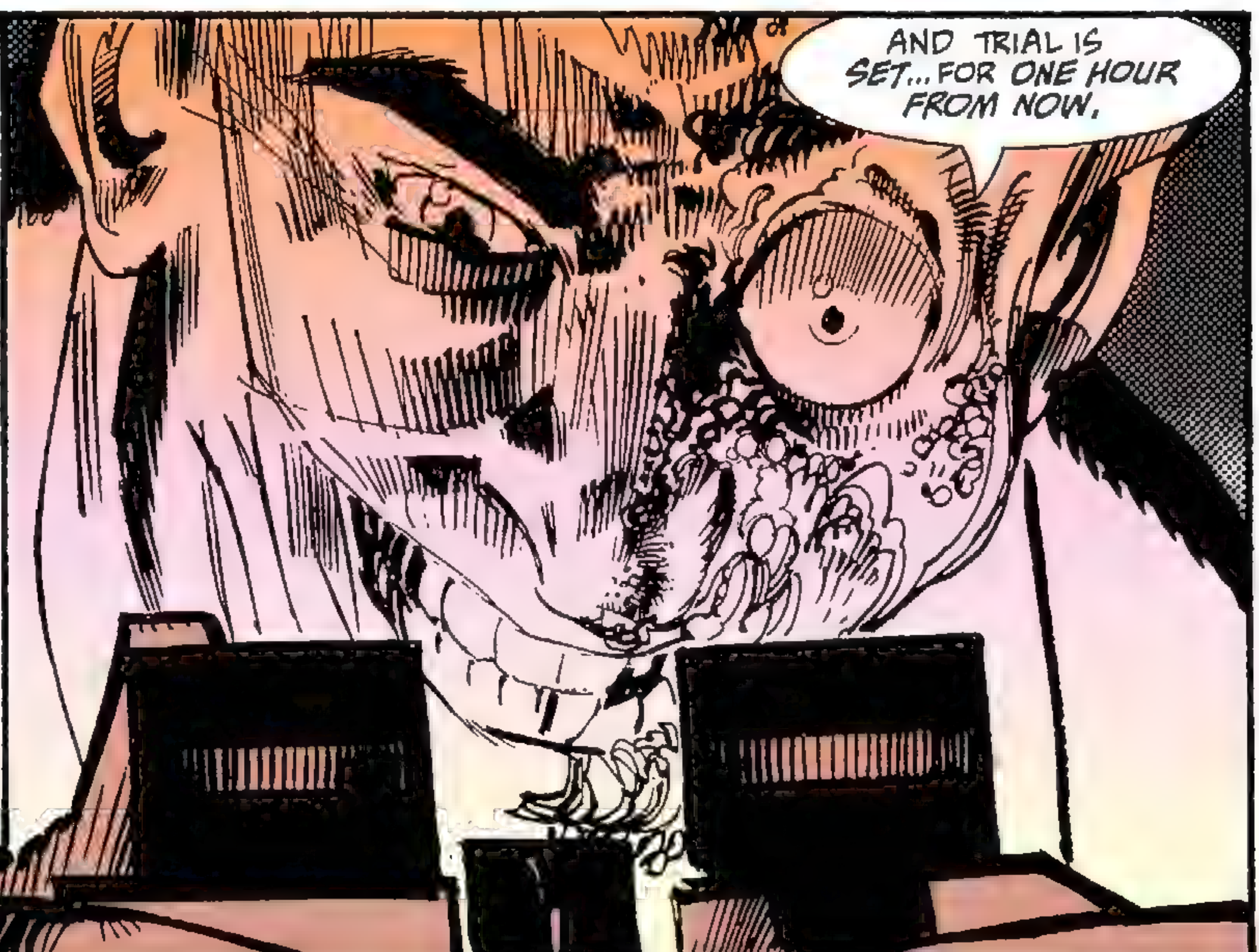
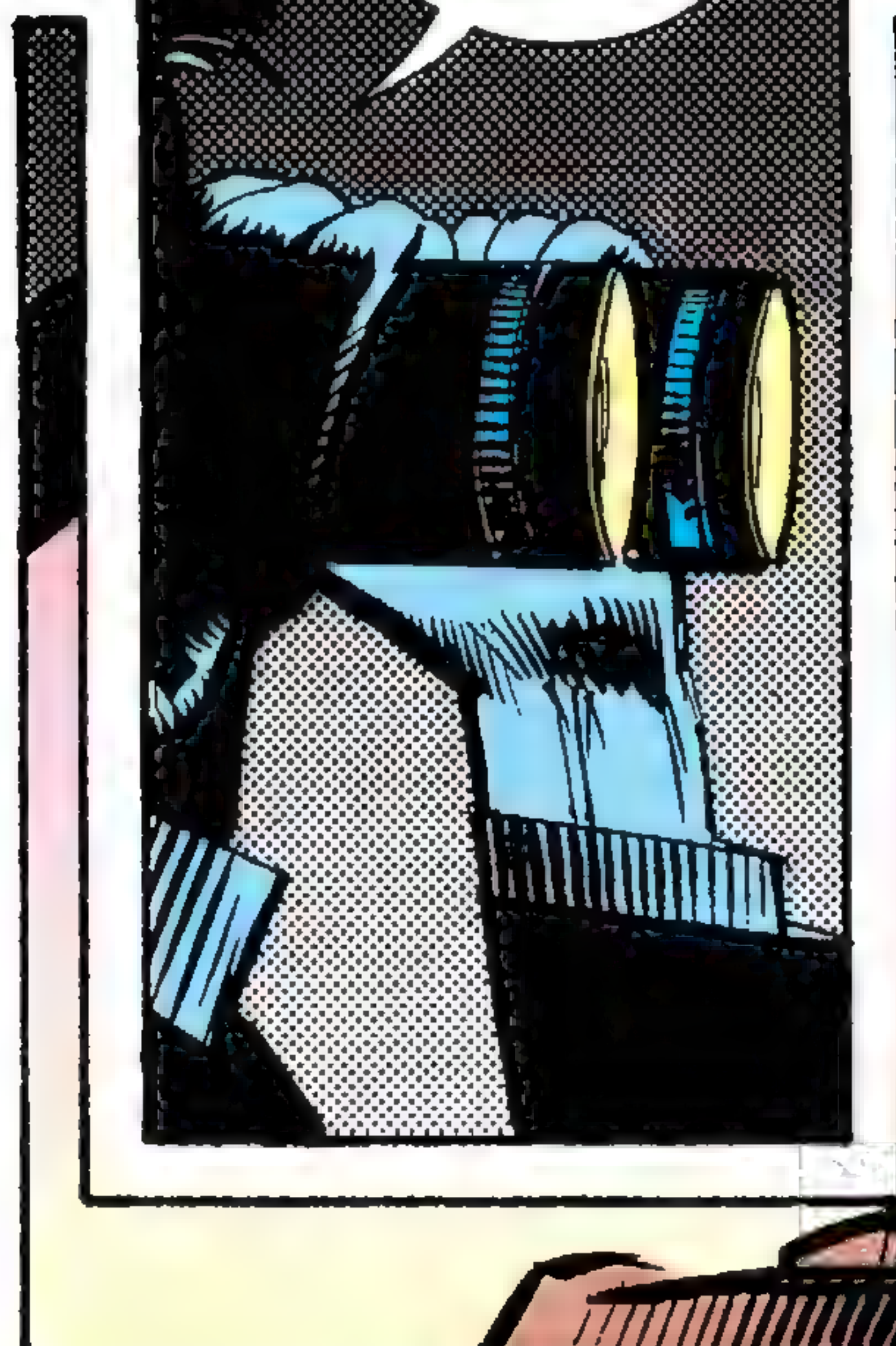
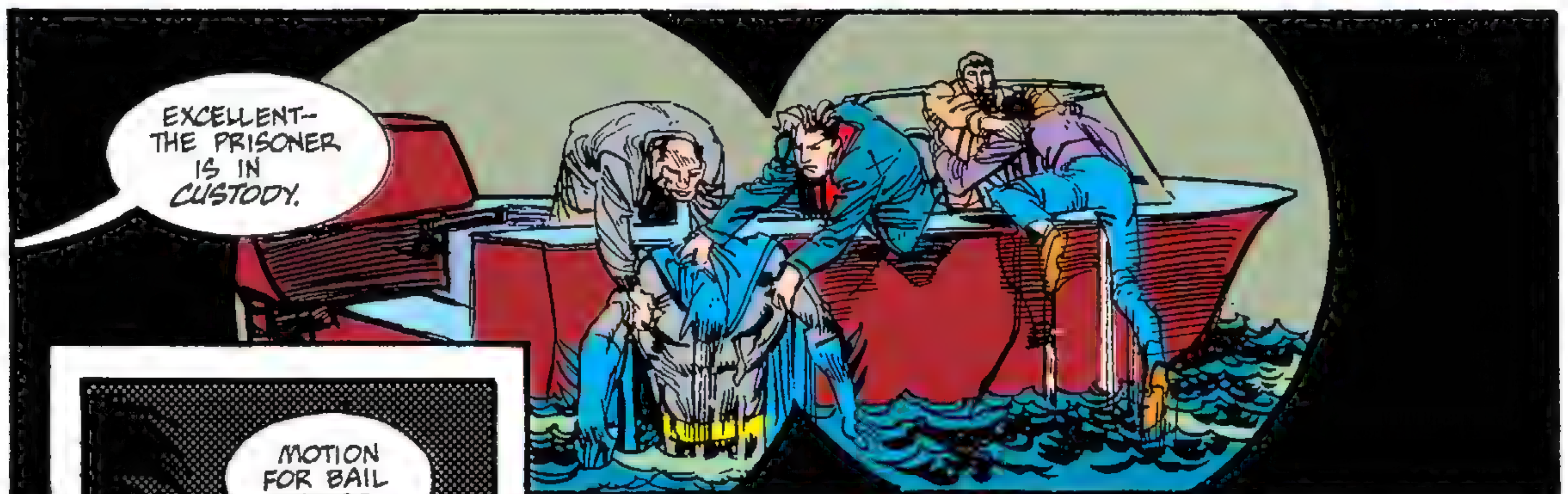
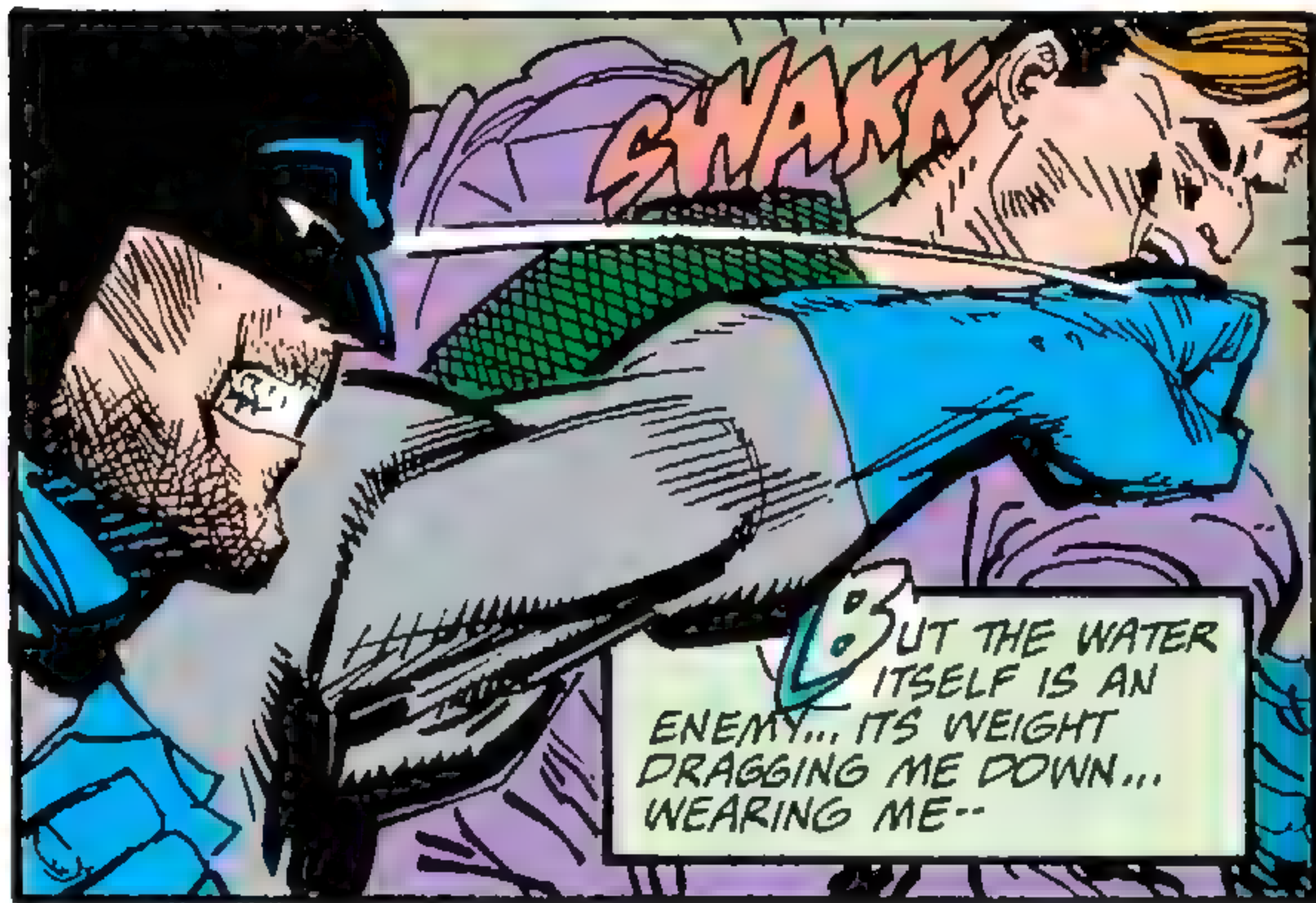
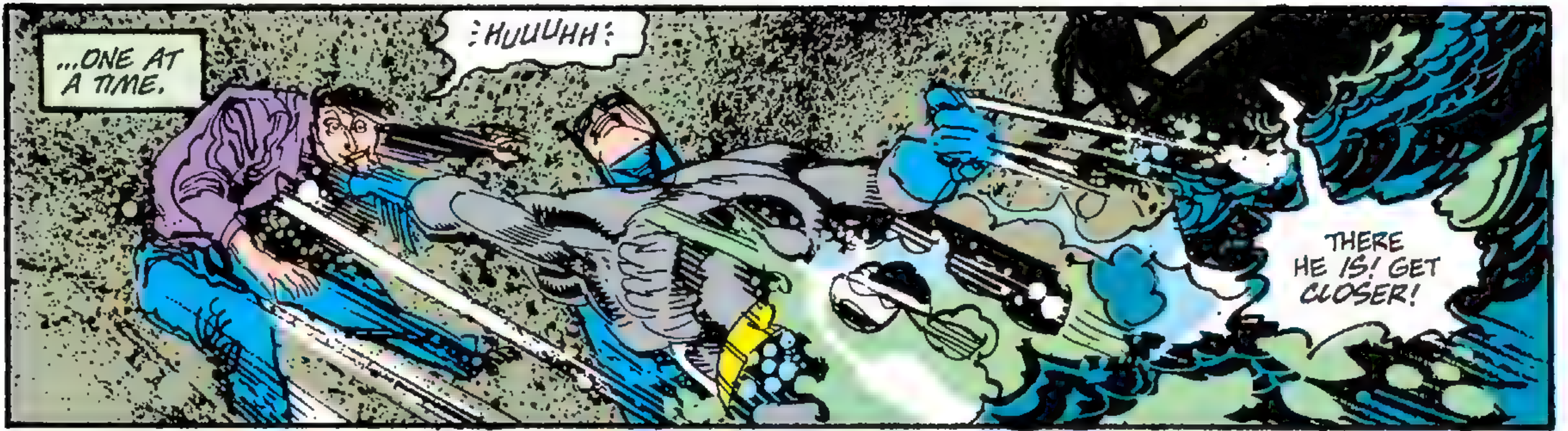
CAN'T HOLD
MY BREATH...
MUCH...
LONGER...

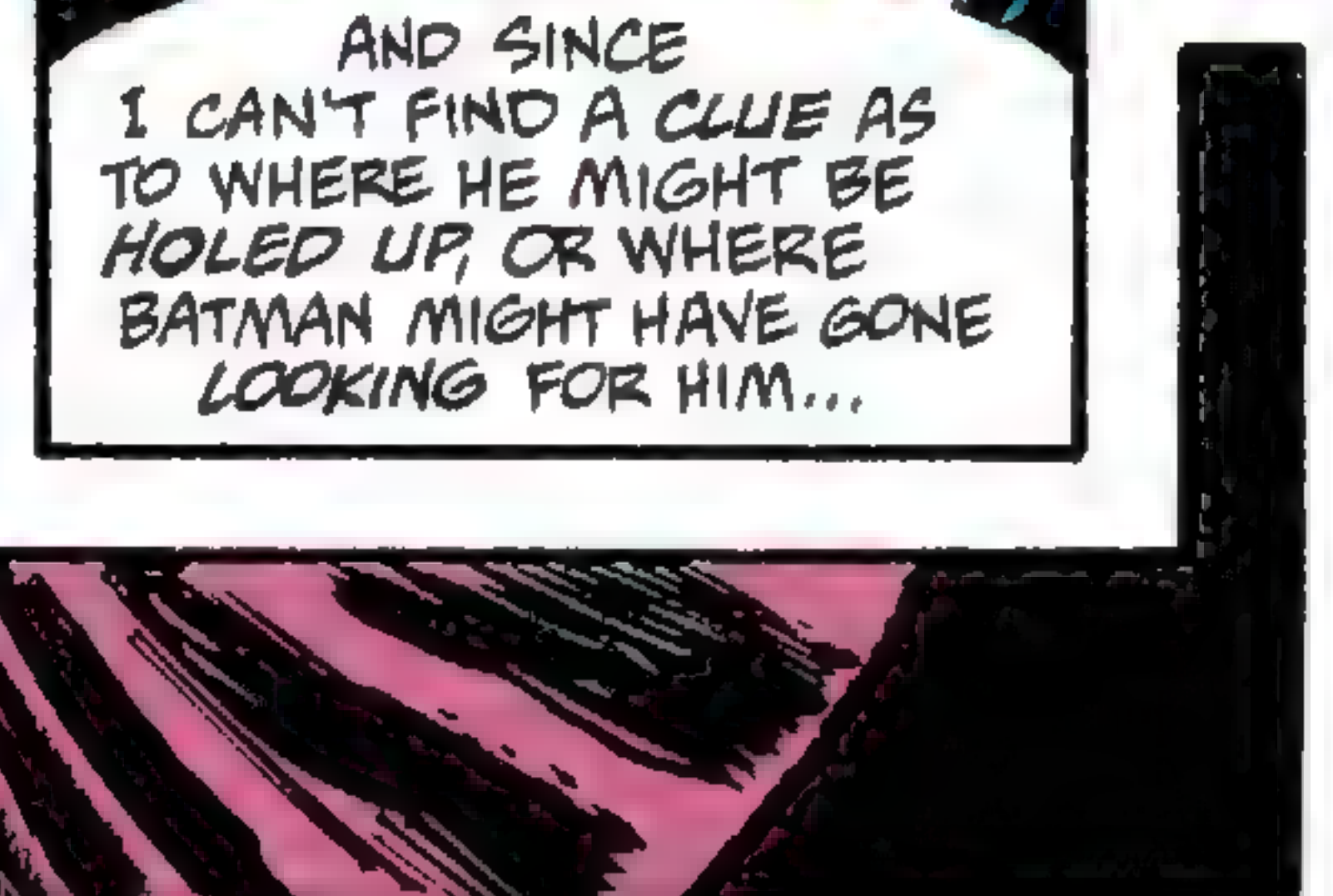
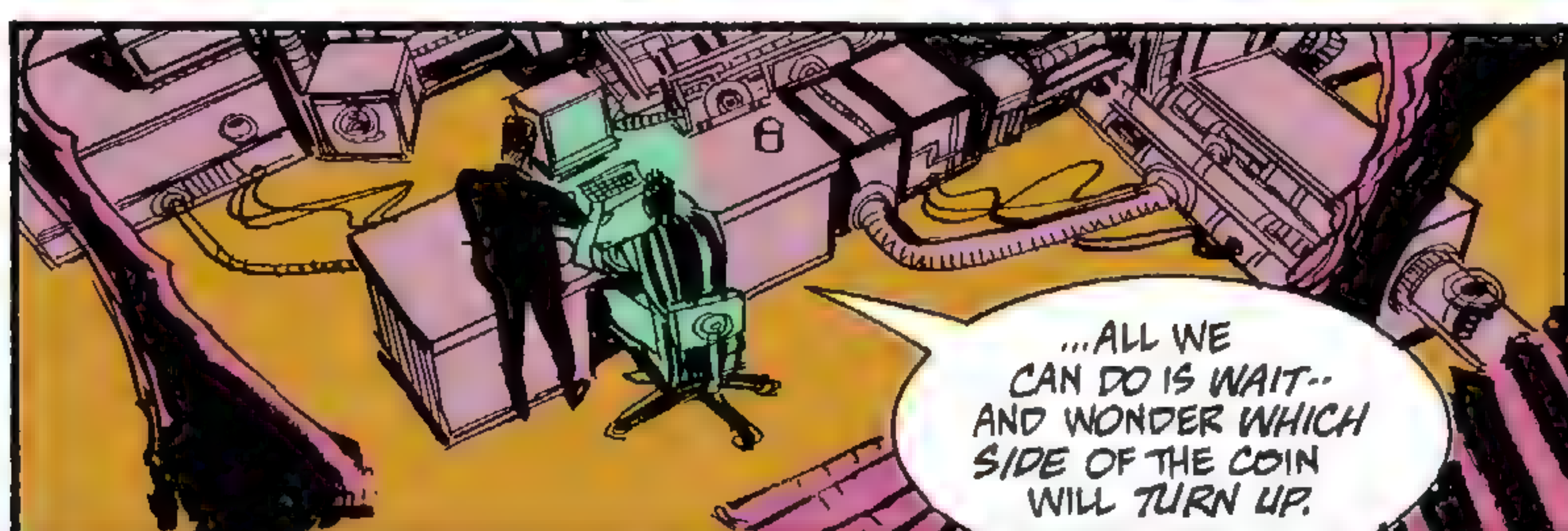
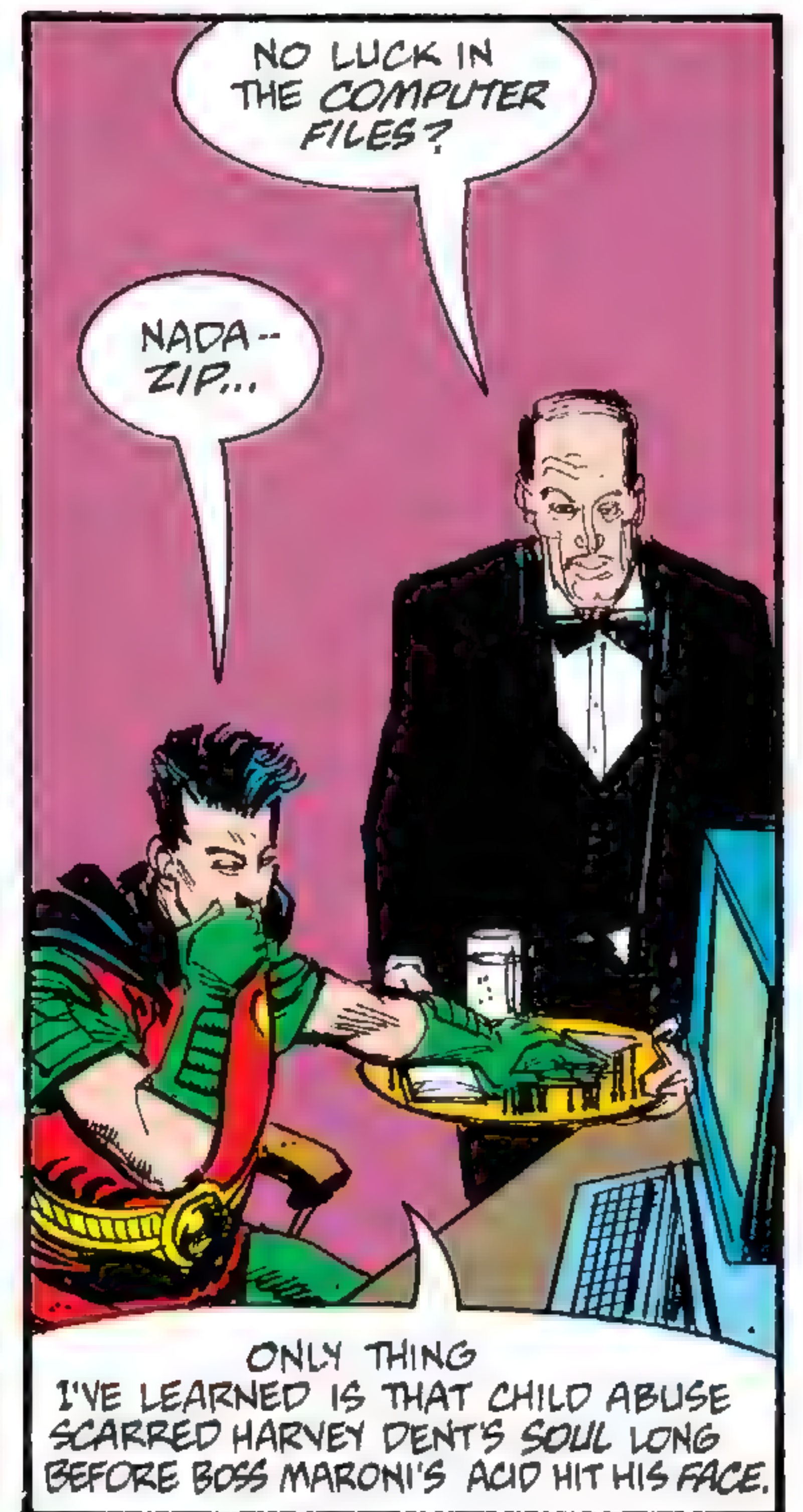
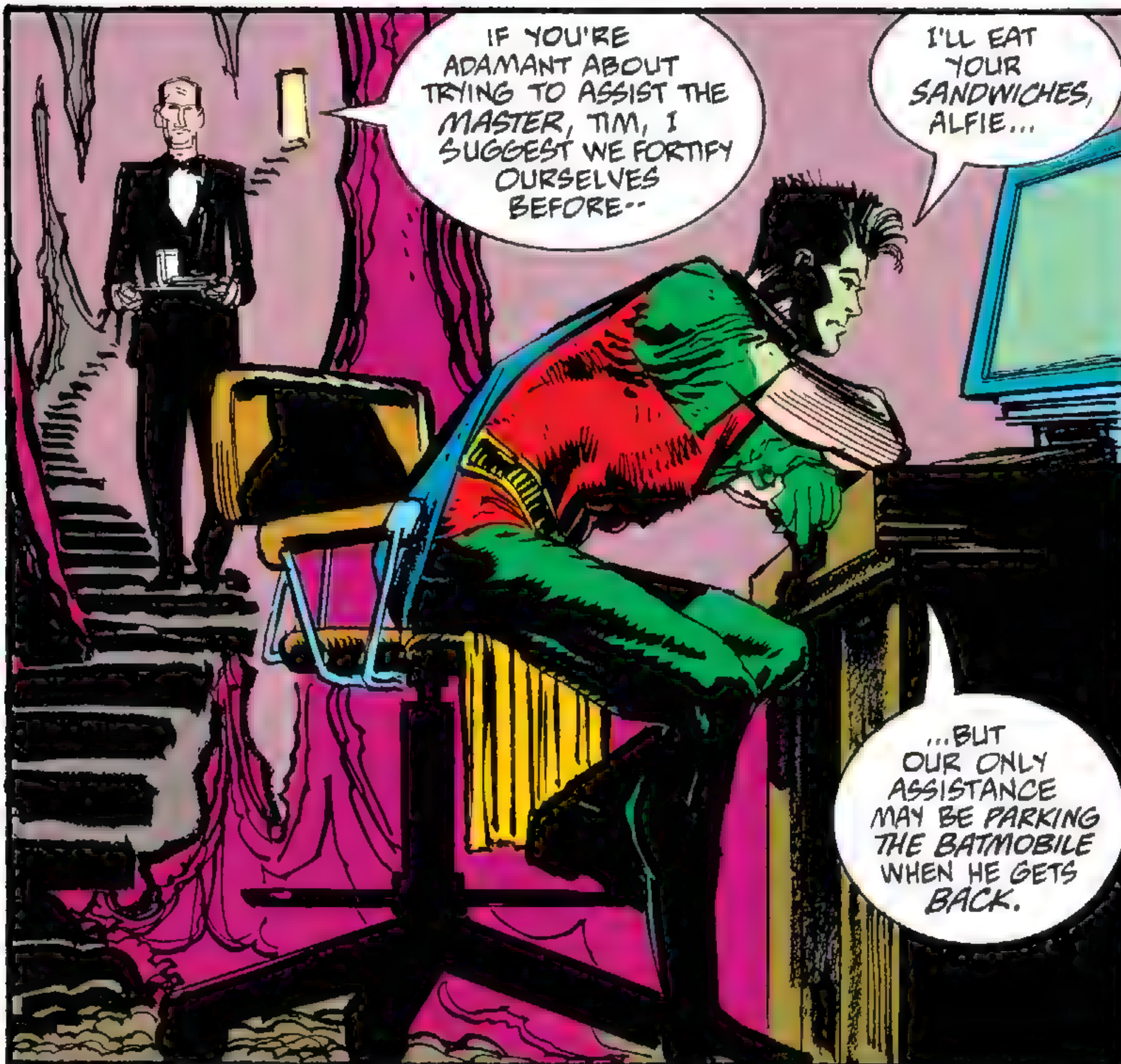
I'VE
GOT HIM!
HELP ME
FISH HIM
OUT!

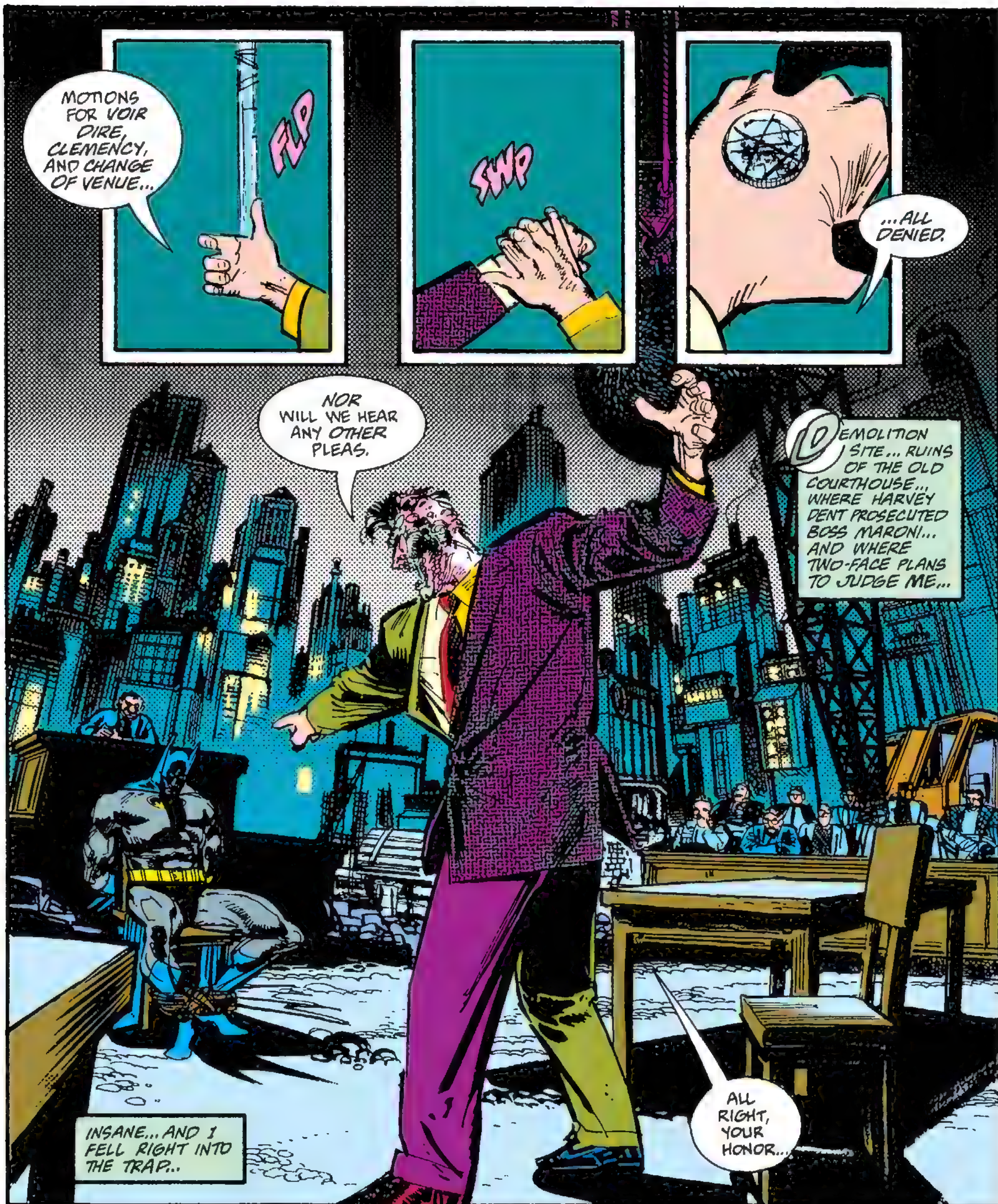
FINALLY...

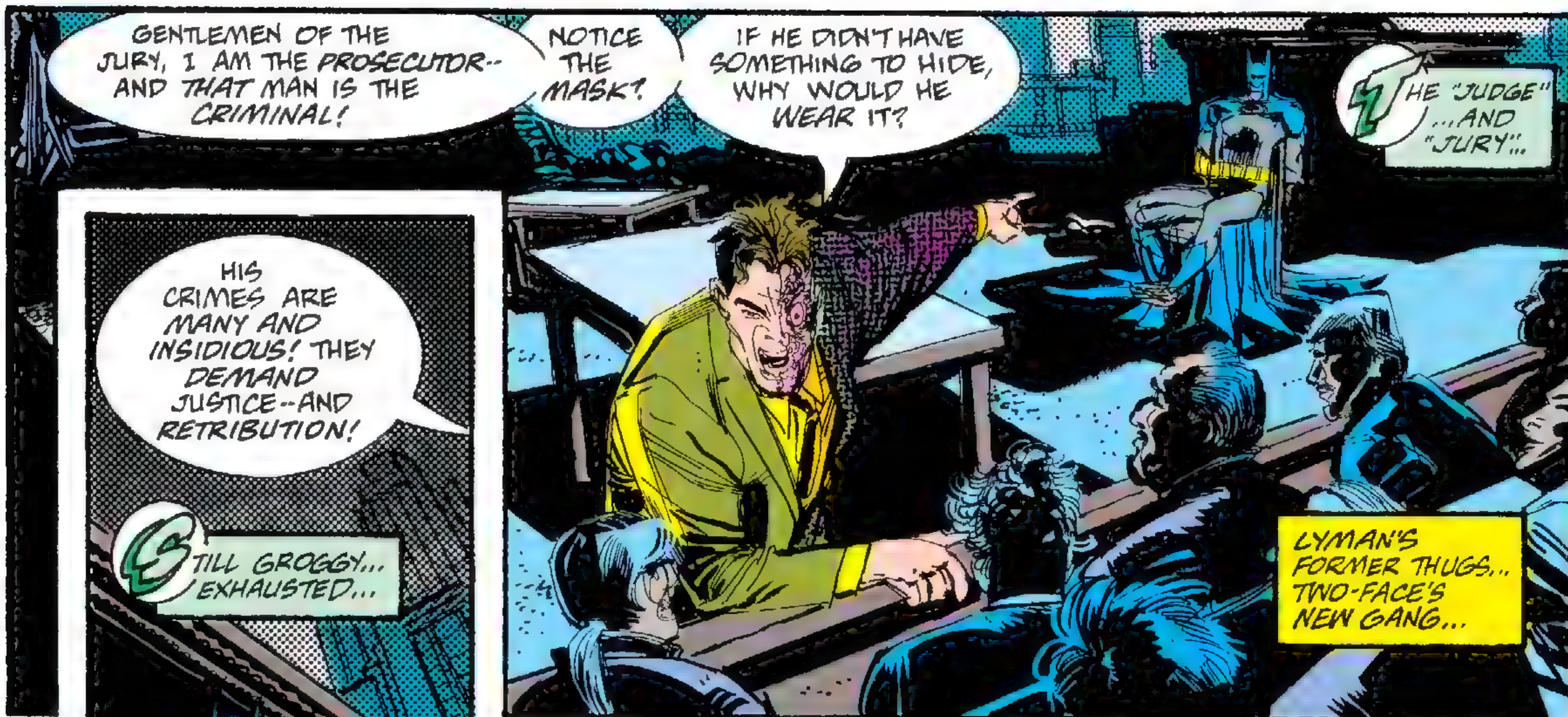
DOUG MOENCH--writer
KLAUS JANSON--artist/colorist
KEN BRUZENAK--letterer
DENNIS O'NEIL--consulting editor
NEAL POZNER--editor











GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY, I AM THE PROSECUTOR-- AND THAT MAN IS THE CRIMINAL!

NOTICE THE MASK?

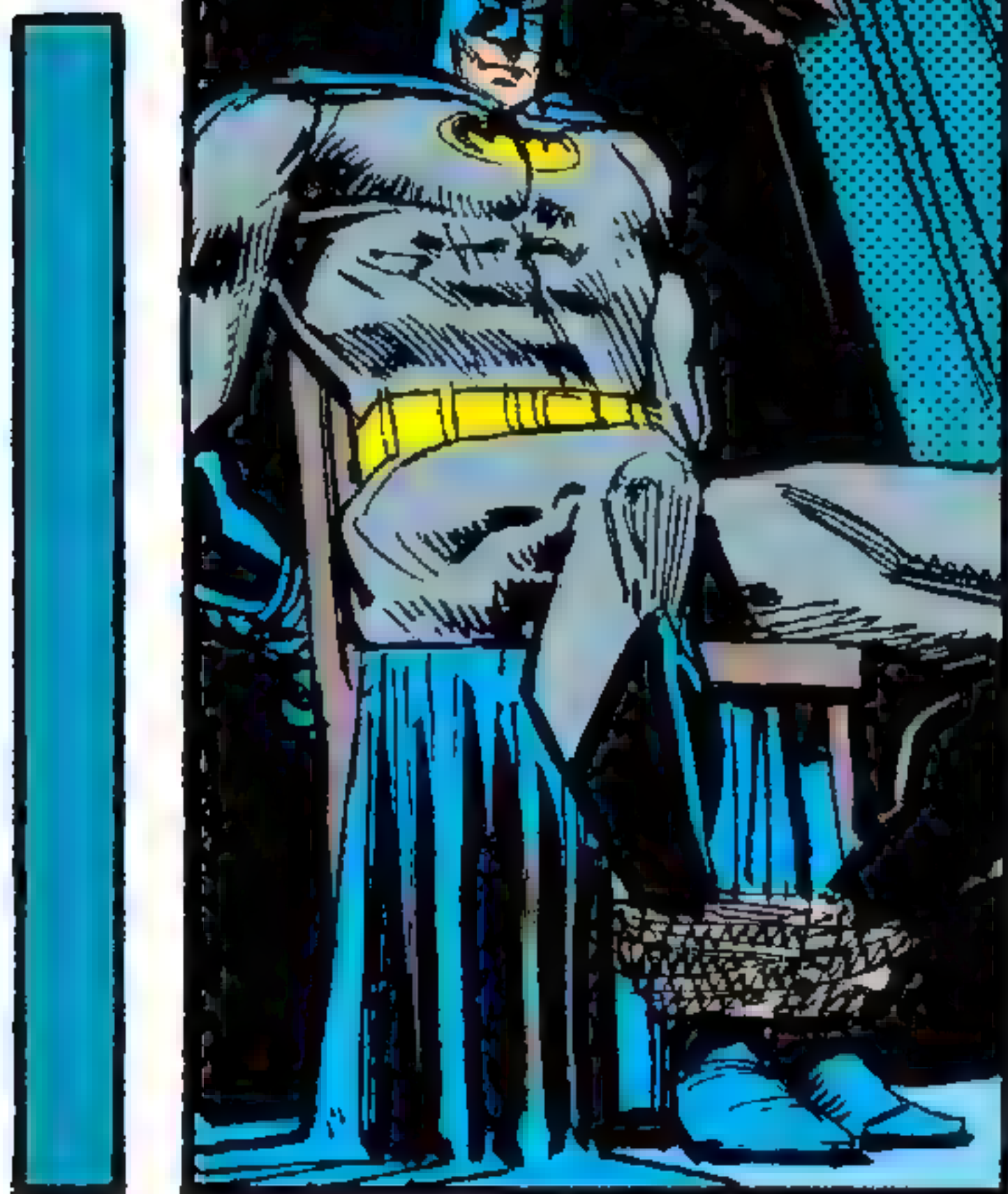
IF HE DIDN'T HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE, WHY WOULD HE WEAR IT?

THE "JUDGE" ...AND "JURY"...

HIS CRIMES ARE MANY AND INSIDIOUS! THEY DEMAND JUSTICE--AND RETRIBUTION!

STILL GROGGY... EXHAUSTED...

LYMAN'S FORMER THUGS... TWO-FACE'S NEW GANG...



JUST FOR STARTERS, HE IS CHARGED WITH TWO-FACED DUPLICITY, DOUBLE-DEALING, TWO COUNTS OF BETRAYAL, AND DOUBLE-CROSS!

ONCE CONVICTED, HIS PUNISHMENT WILL BE SEVERE--AND PERSONALLY ENFORCED BY ME!

I INSIST ON THE DEATH PENALTY, GENTLEMEN--



--AND THAT PUNISHMENT WILL BE PRECEDED BY NOTHING LESS THAN THE REMOVAL OF HIS MASK--THE STRIPPING AWAY OF THE SECOND FACE BEHIND WHICH HE HIDES!



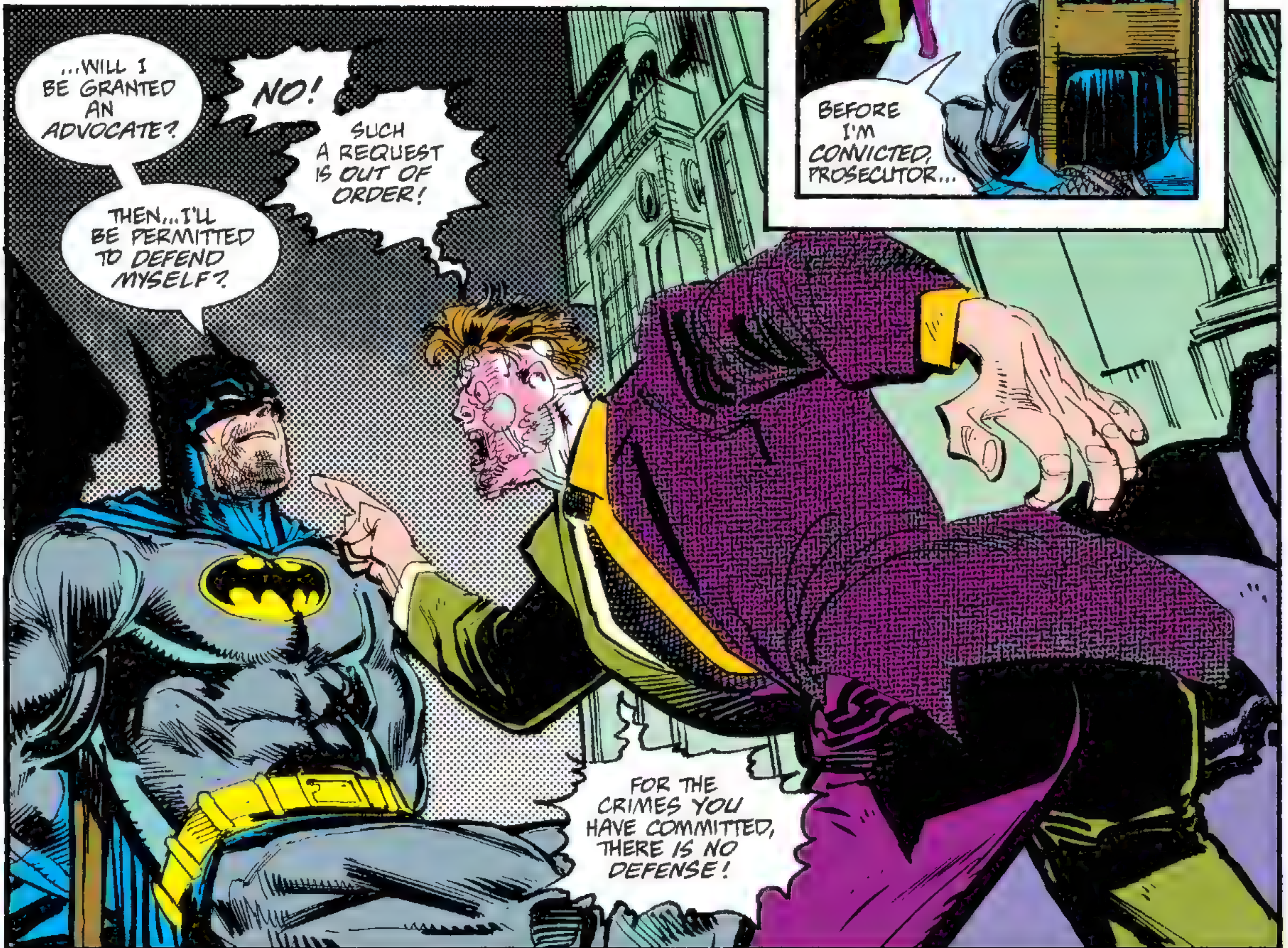
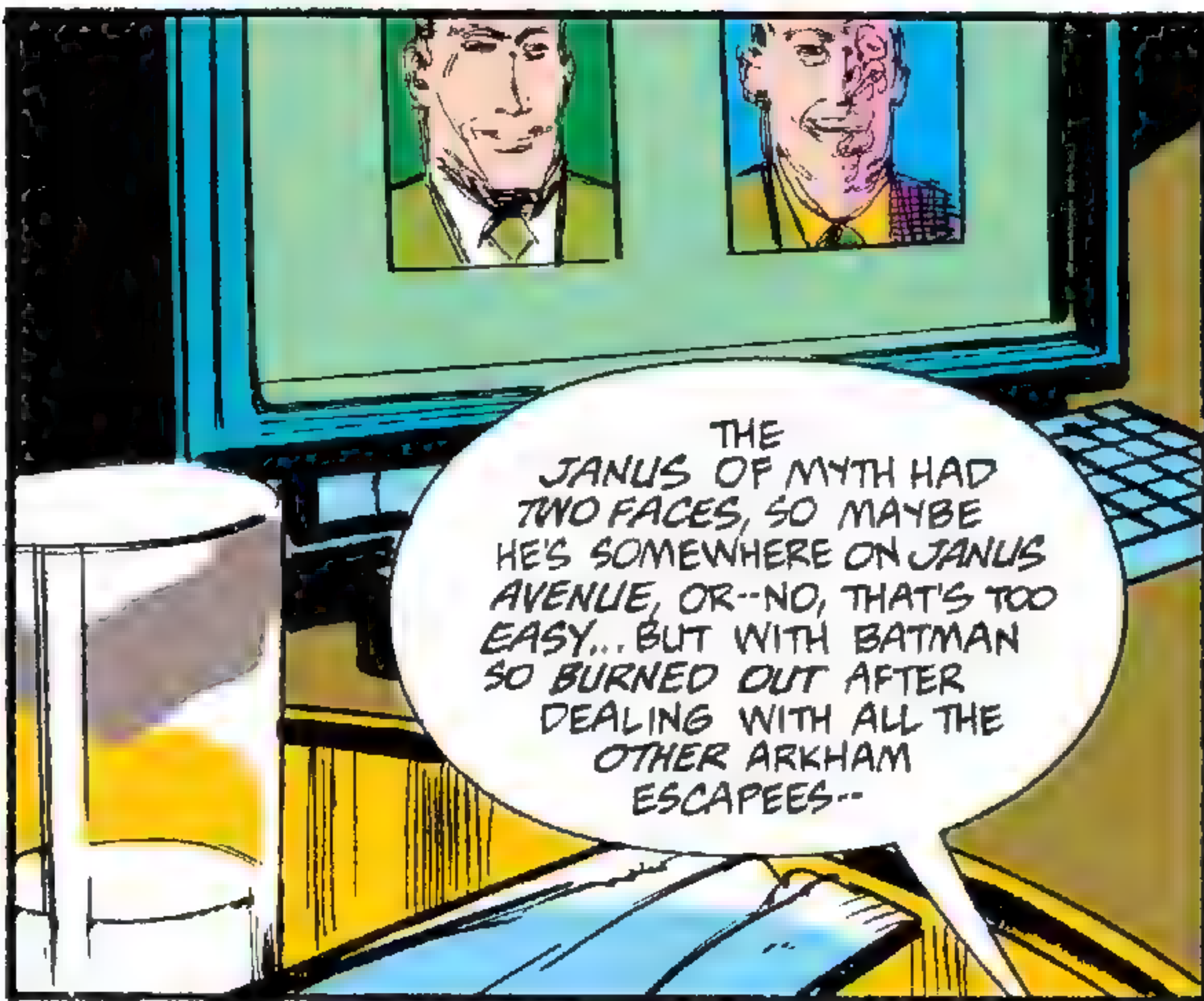
WITHOUT THE MASK, HIS SINS WILL NO LONGER BE COVERED UP! THEY WILL BE NAKED FOR ALL TO SEE!

WITHOUT THE MASK, HE WILL BE EXPOSED FOR WHAT HE TRULY IS!



WITHOUT THE MASK, HE WILL BE DESTROYED-- WITH A BULLET RIGHT THROUGH HIS OTHER FACE-- HIS REAL FACE!

I WAS WRONG TO EXCLUDE ROBIN... BAD JUDGMENT... LOSING MY EDGE MORE EVERY DAY... ACTUALLY NEED HELP NOW...

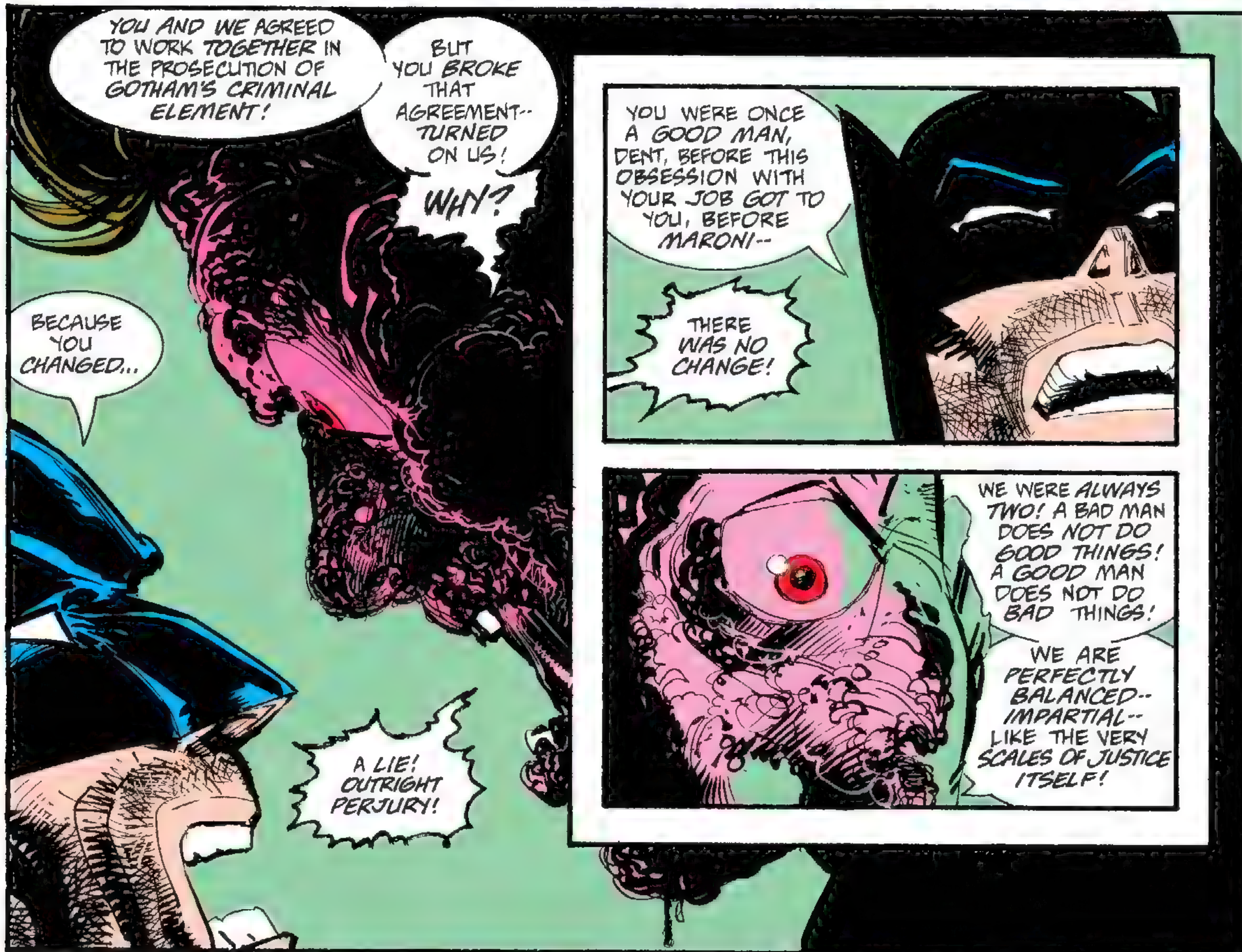




BUT I DO DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!

FWAKK

BEFORE MARONI DESTROYED HALF OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT'S FACE, YOU AND WE HAD A CERTAIN UNDERSTANDING!



YOU AND WE AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE PROSECUTION OF GOTHAM'S CRIMINAL ELEMENT!

BUT YOU BROKE THAT AGREEMENT--TURNED ON US!

WHY?

BECAUSE YOU CHANGED...

YOU WERE ONCE A GOOD MAN, DENT, BEFORE THIS OBSESSION WITH YOUR JOB GOT TO YOU, BEFORE MARONI--

THERE WAS NO CHANGE!

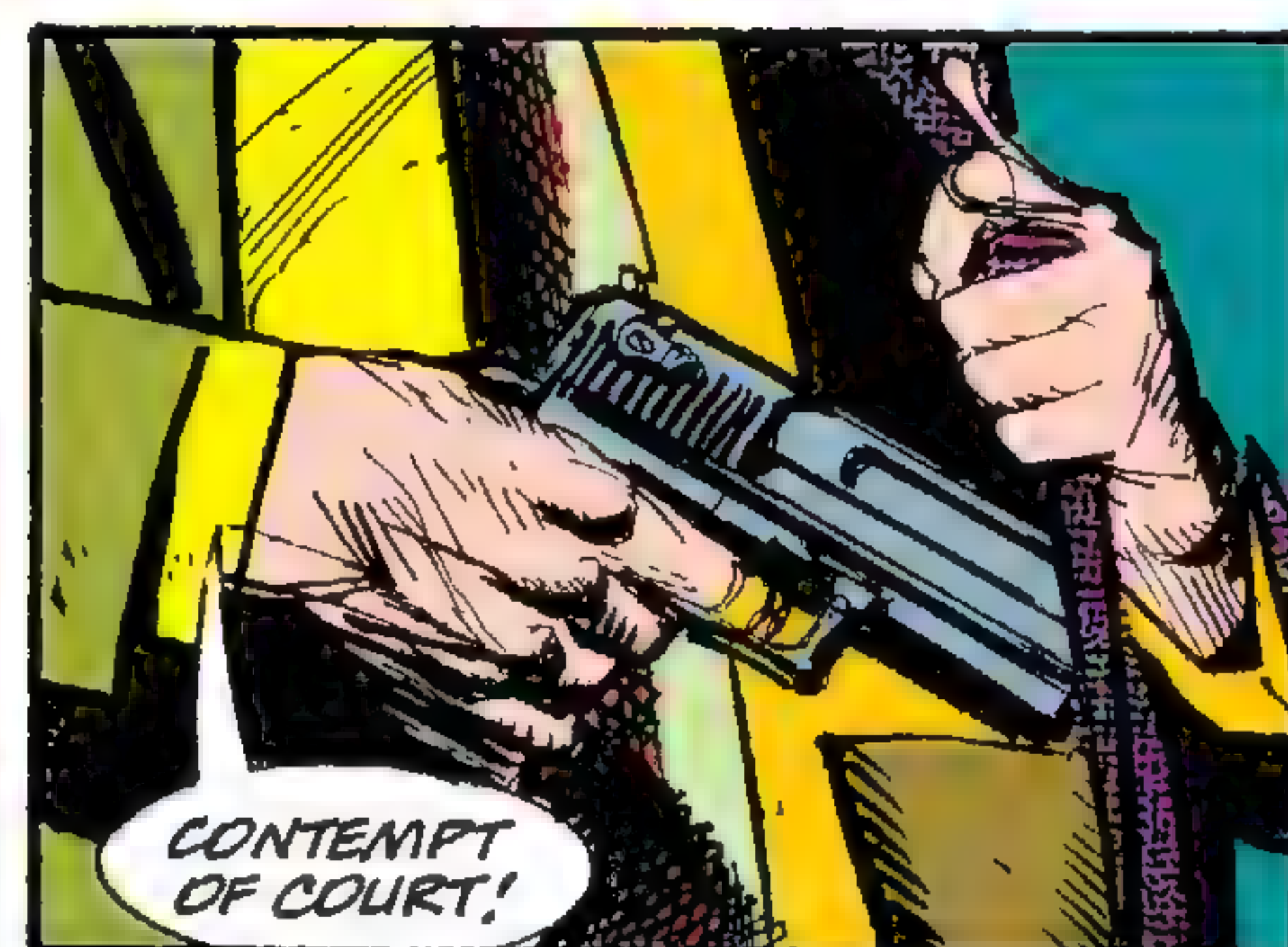
A LIE! OUTRIGHT PERJURY!

WE WERE ALWAYS TWO! A BAD MAN DOES NOT DO GOOD THINGS! A GOOD MAN DOES NOT DO BAD THINGS!

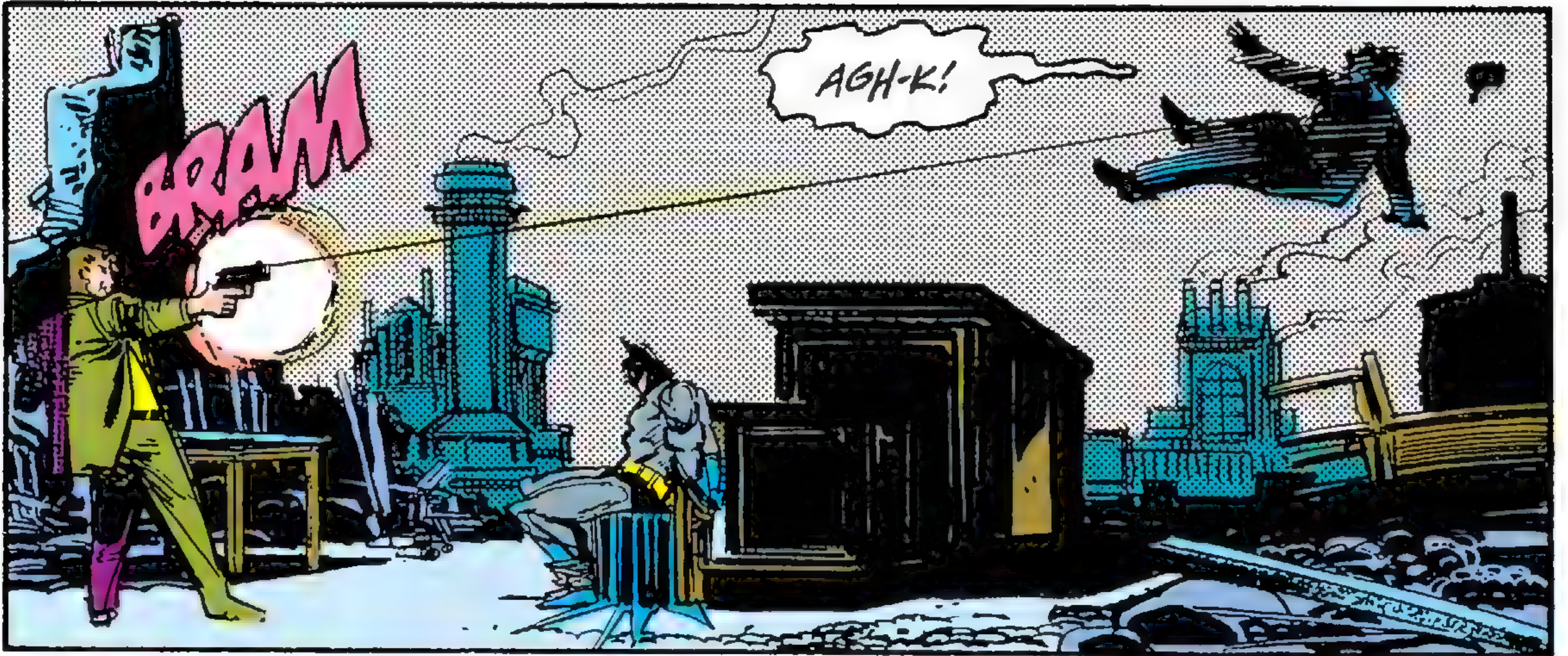
WE ARE PERFECTLY BALANCED--IMPARTIAL--LIKE THE VERY SCALES OF JUSTICE ITSELF!



AWRIGHT AWREADY! WHY DON'T WE CUT THIS SHORT 'AN' JUST SMOKE THE LOUSY FREAKIN' BATMA--



CONTEMPT OF COURT!



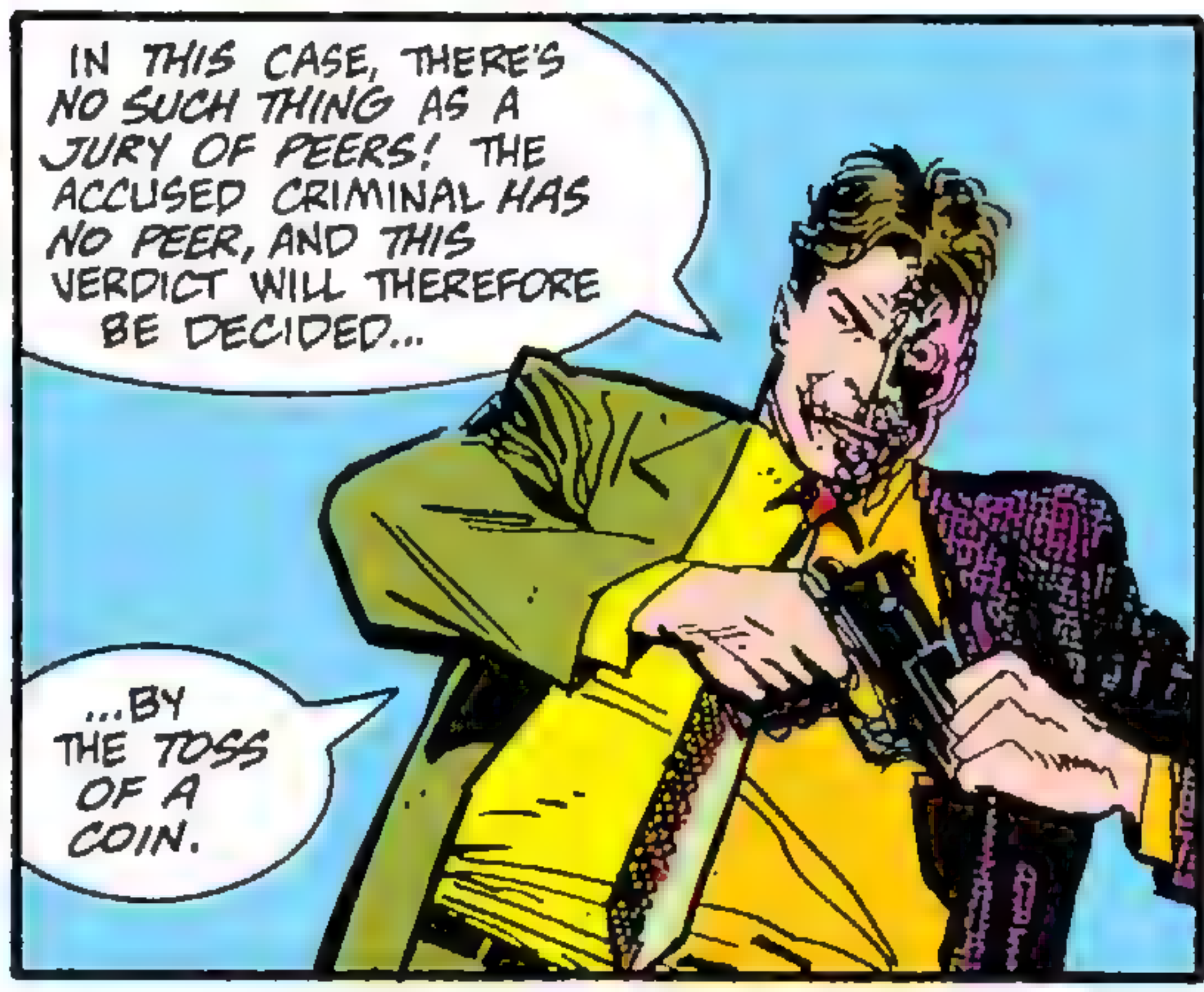
AGH-K!

BOOM



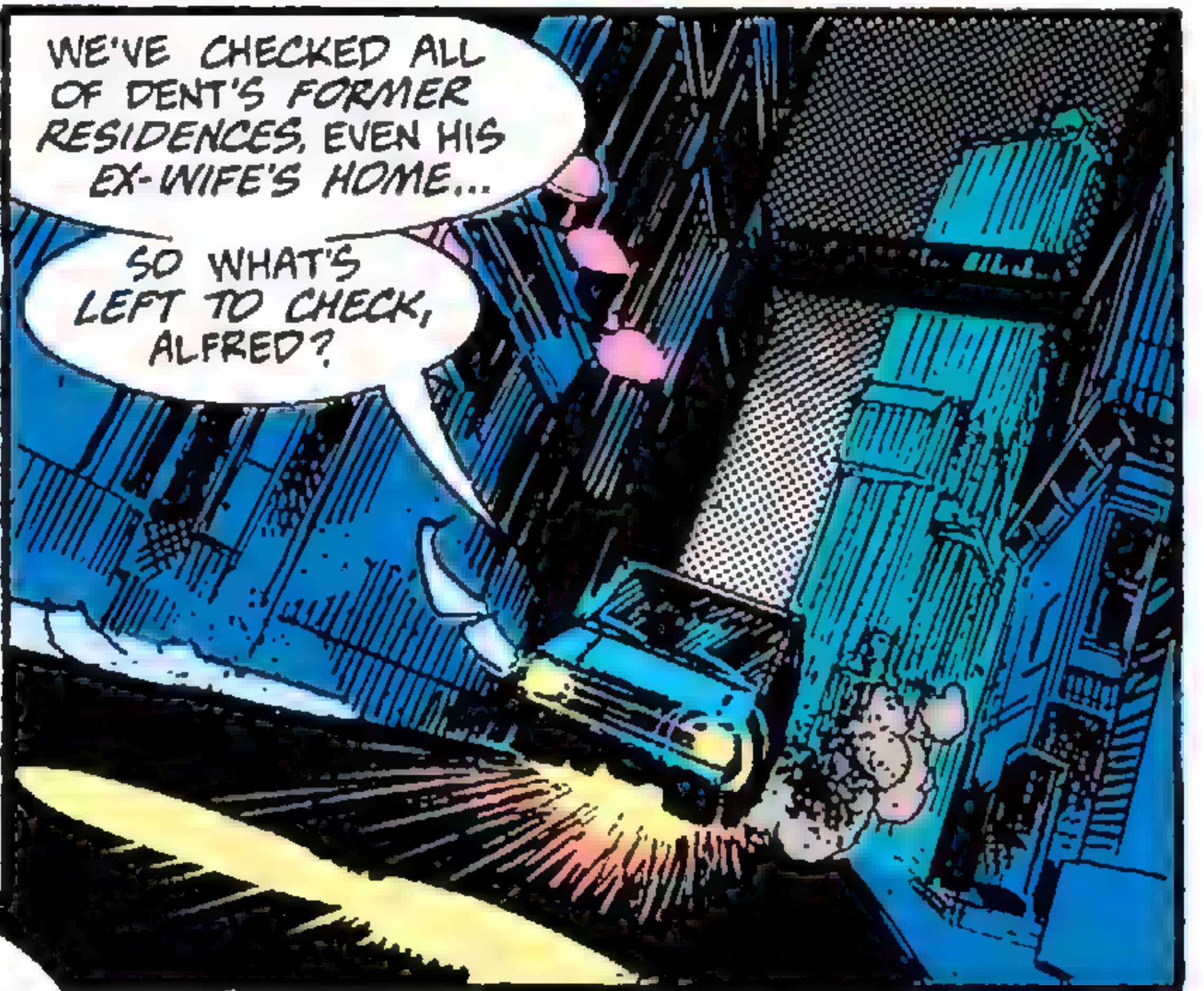
AND WE DON'T NEED YOU, EITHER!

LOOK OUT! HE'S NUTS!



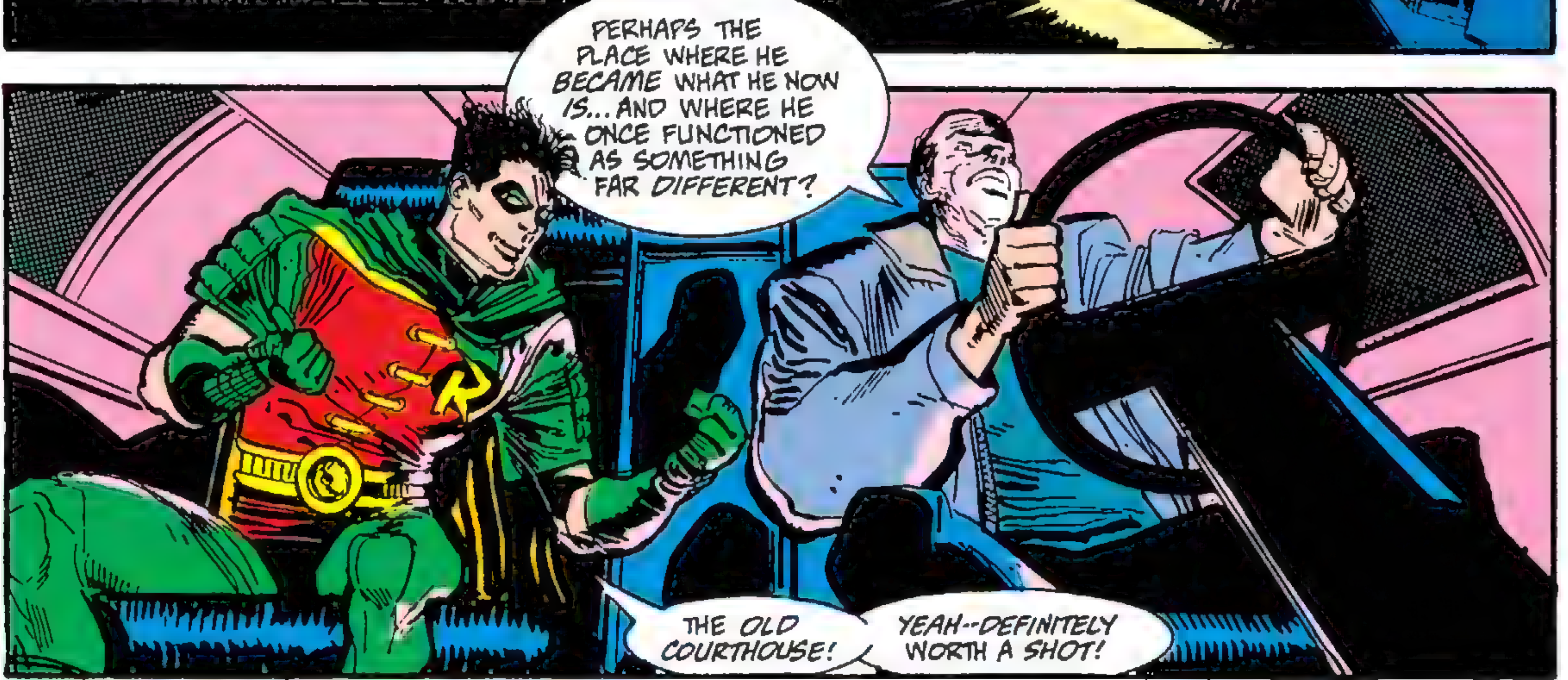
IN THIS CASE, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A JURY OF PEERS! THE ACCUSED CRIMINAL HAS NO PEER, AND THIS VERDICT WILL THEREFORE BE DECIDED...

...BY THE TOSS OF A COIN.



WE'VE CHECKED ALL OF DENT'S FORMER RESIDENCES, EVEN HIS EX-WIFE'S HOME...

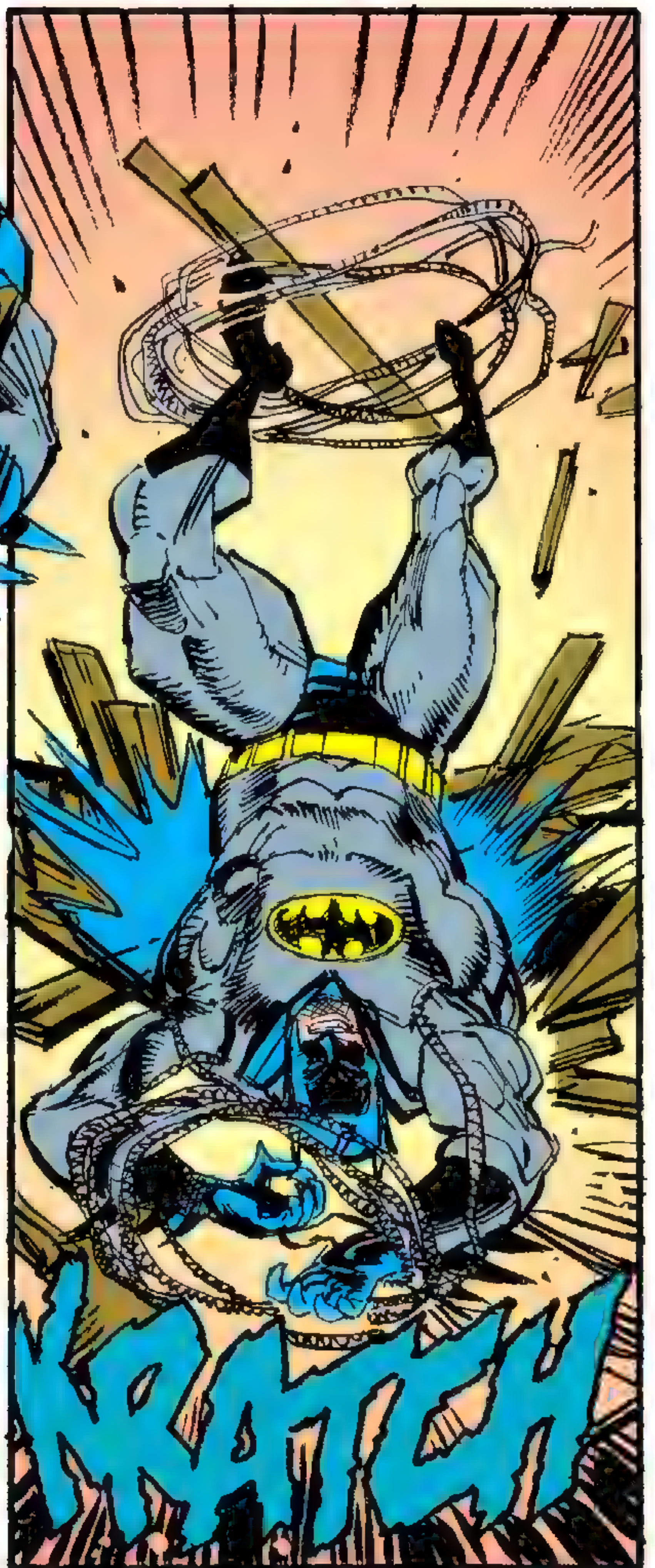
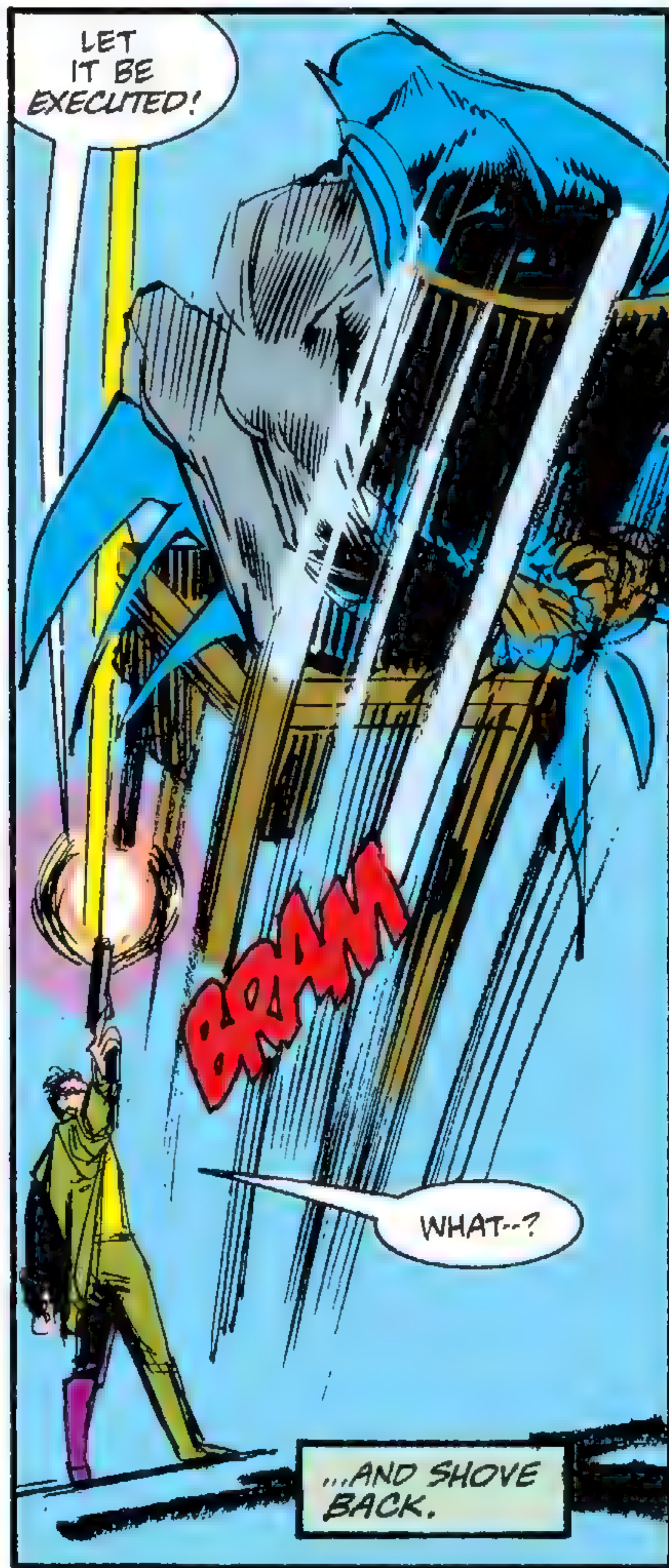
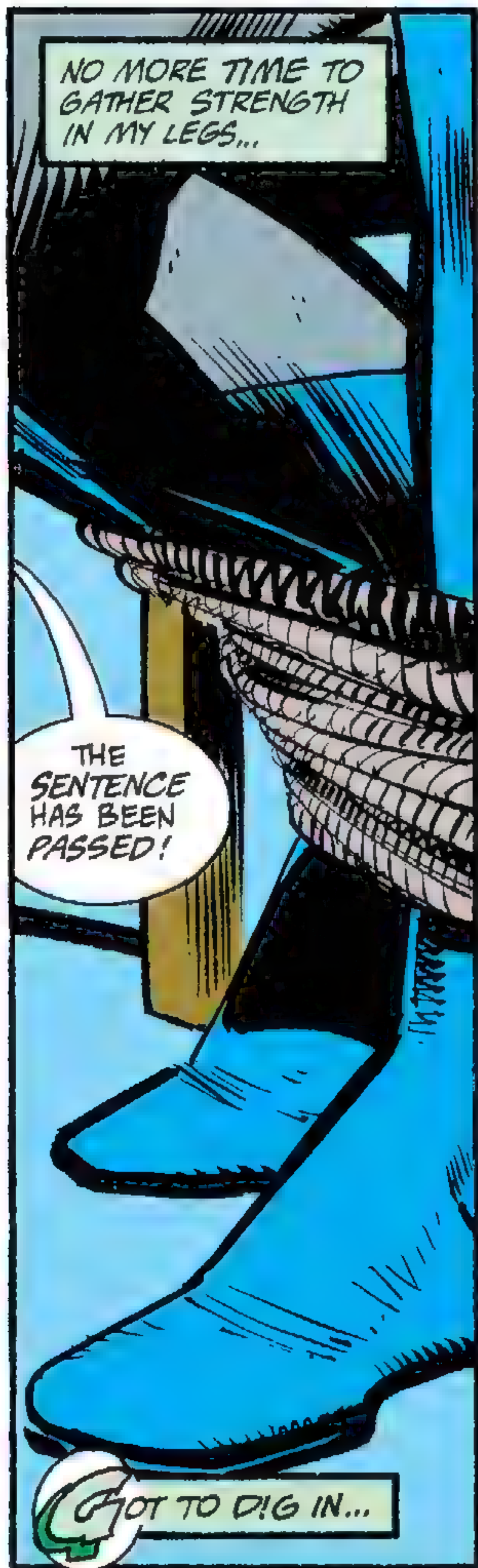
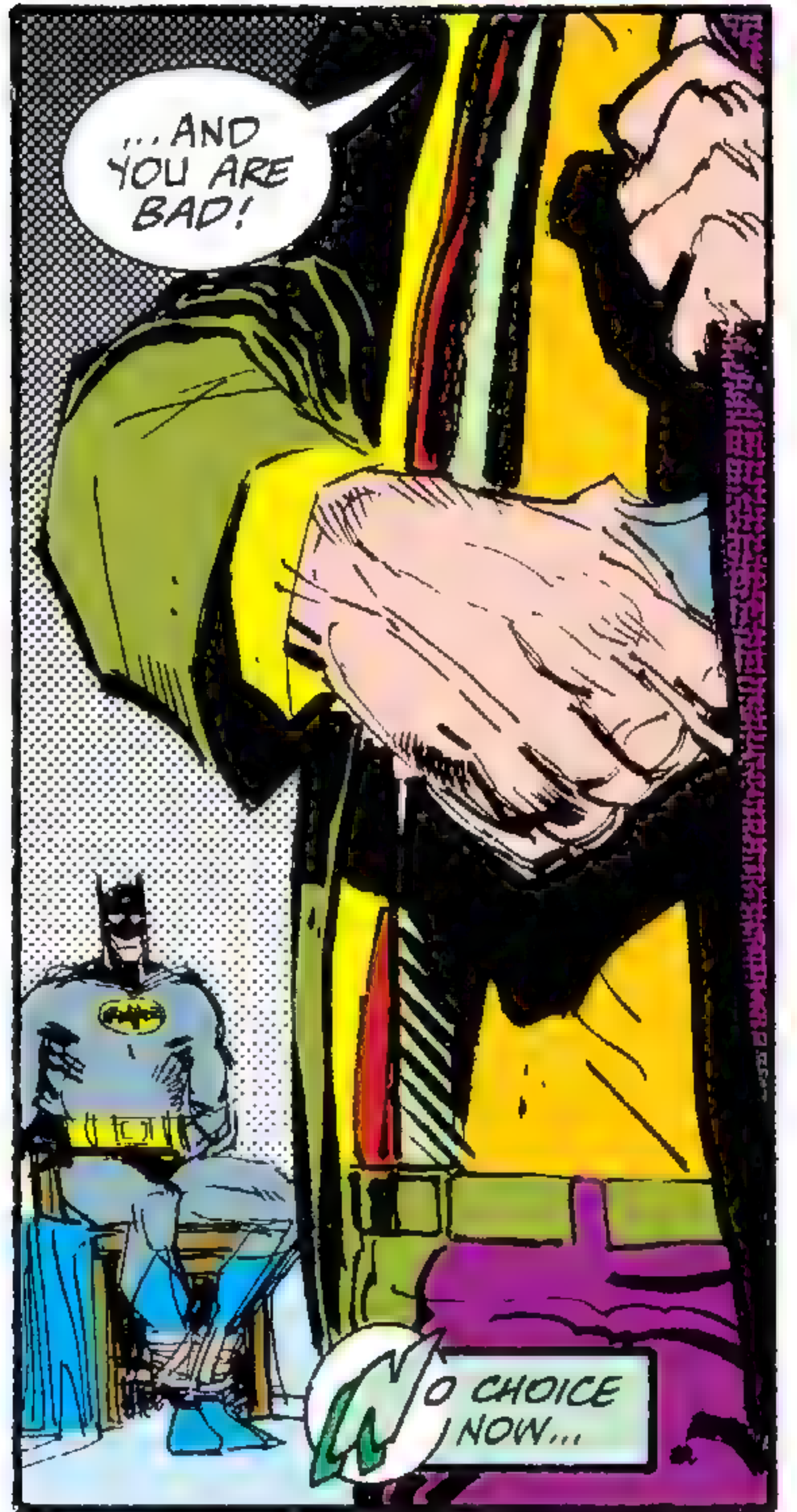
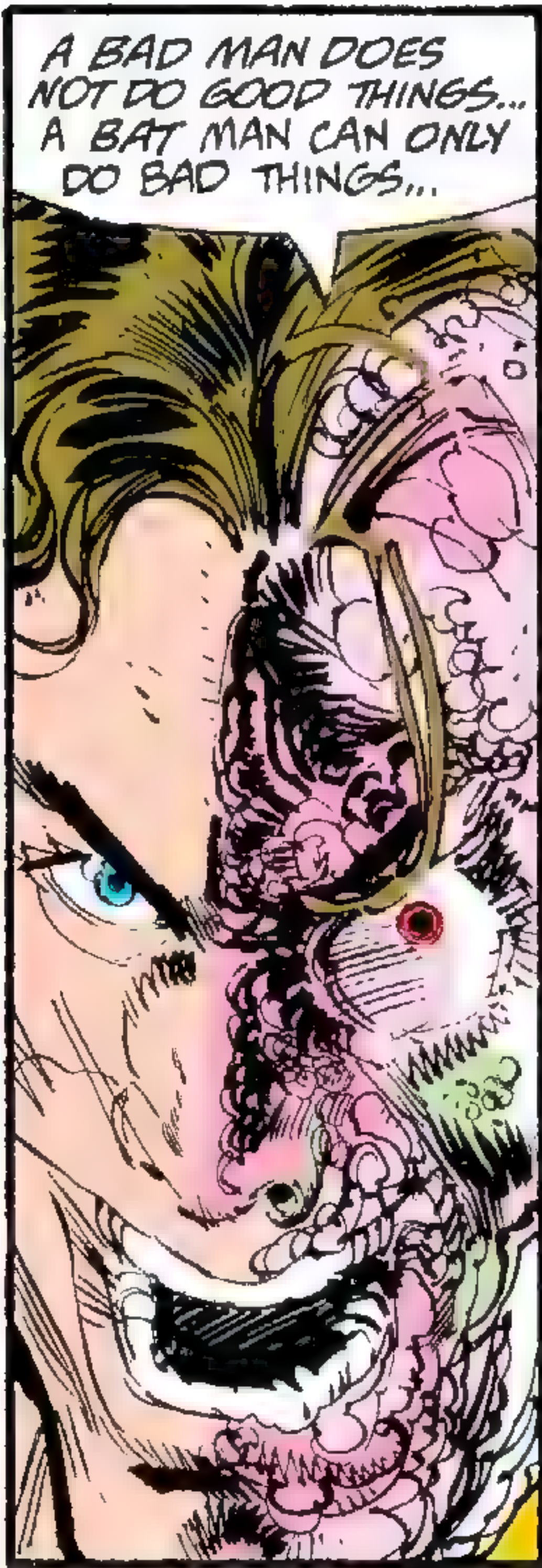
SO WHAT'S LEFT TO CHECK, ALFRED?

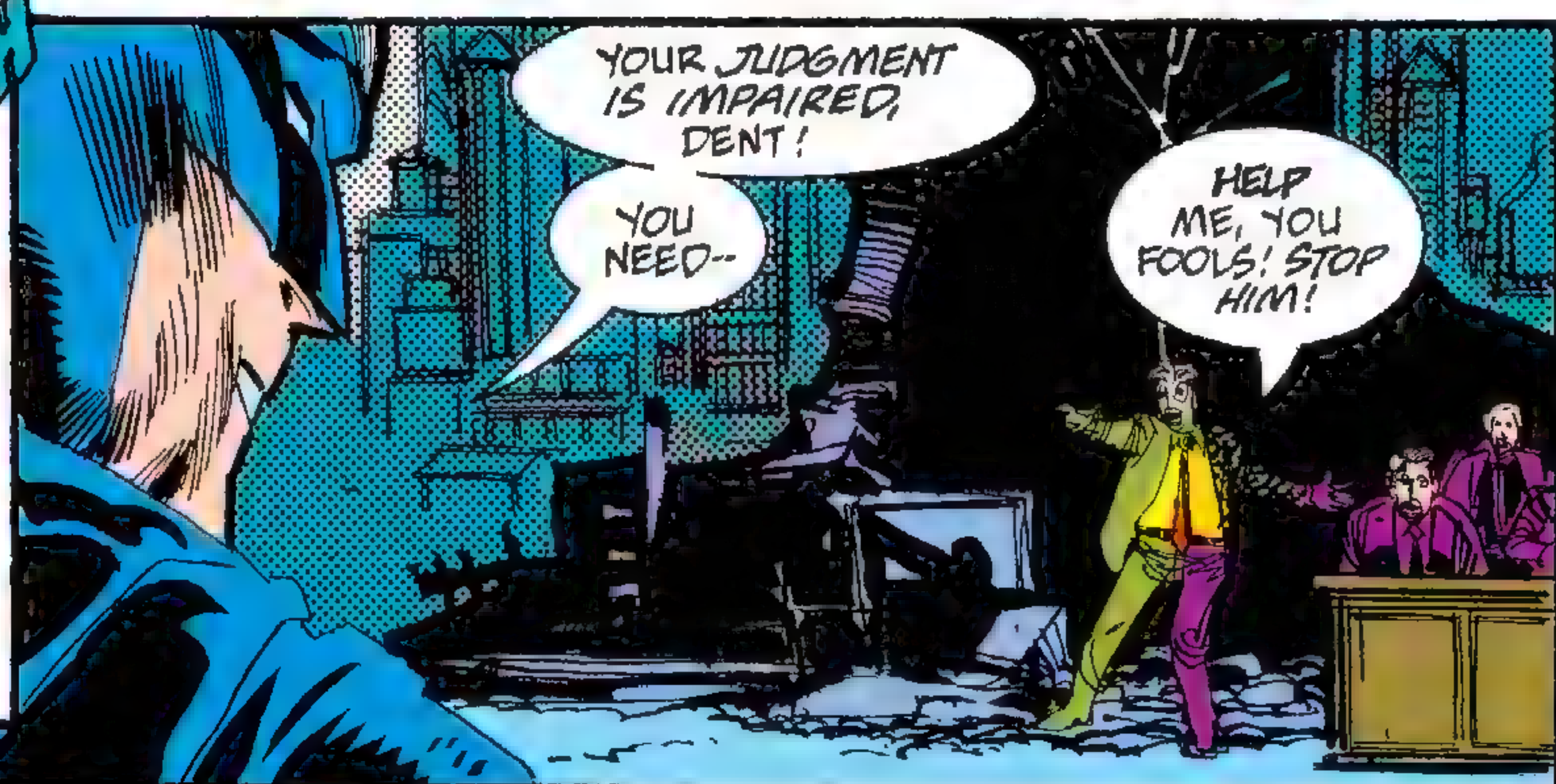
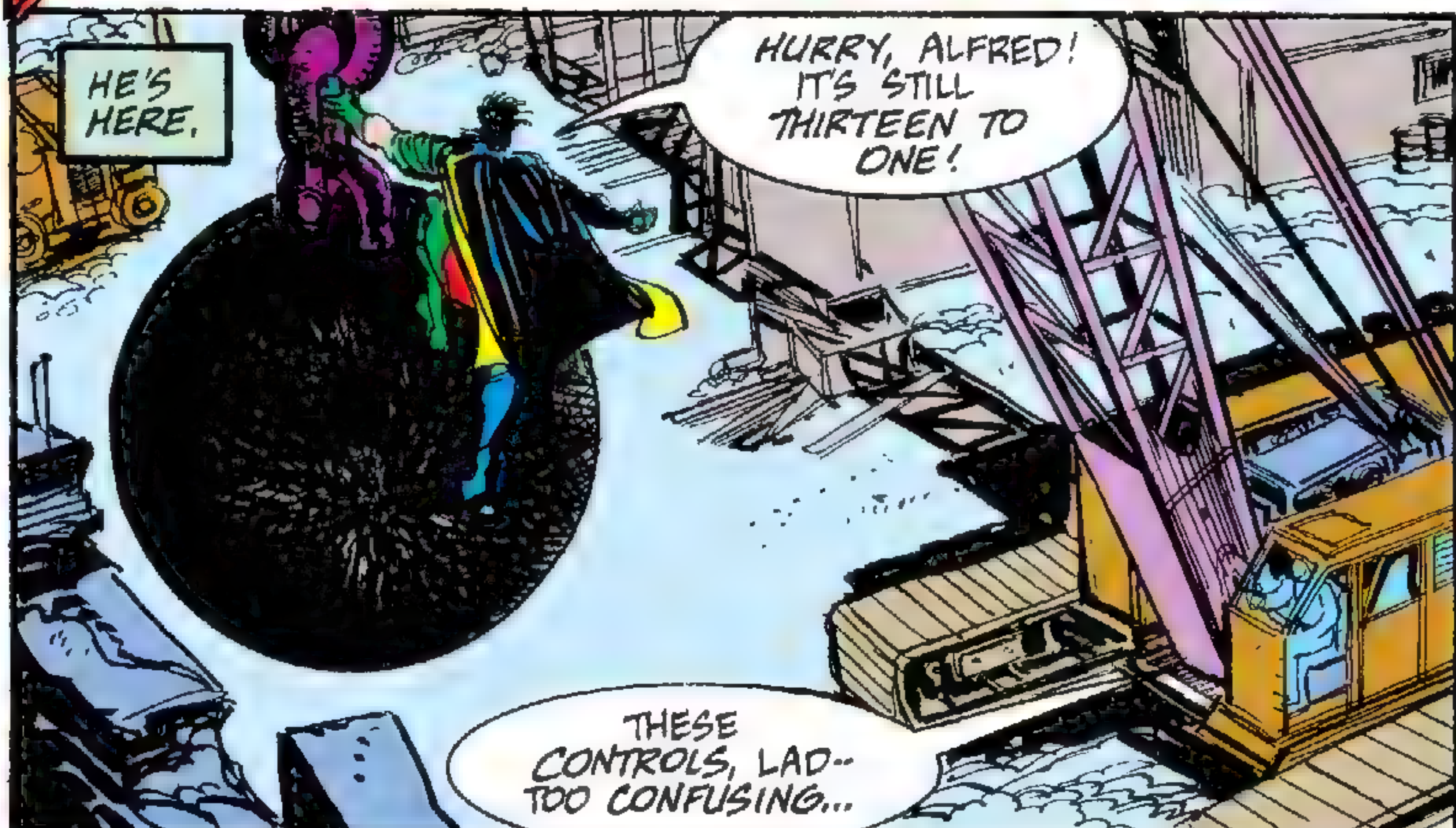
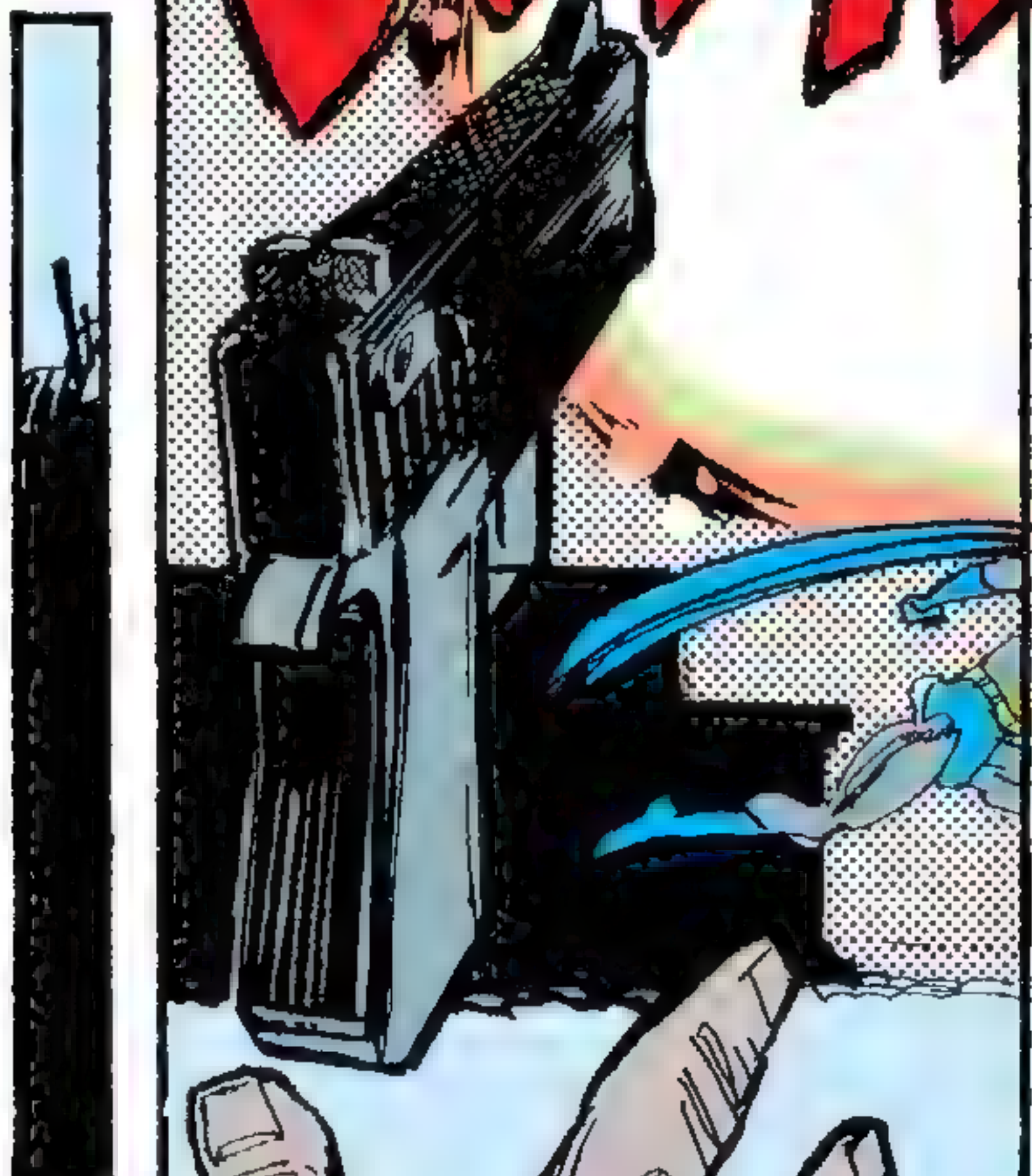
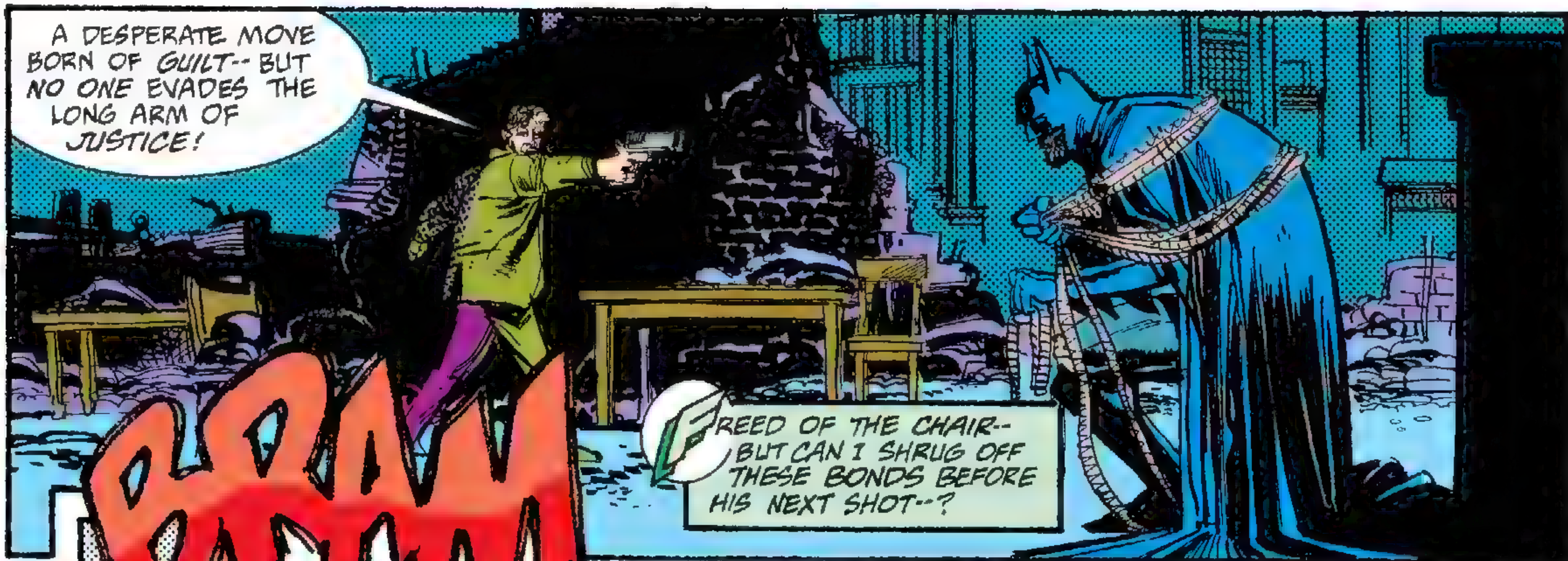


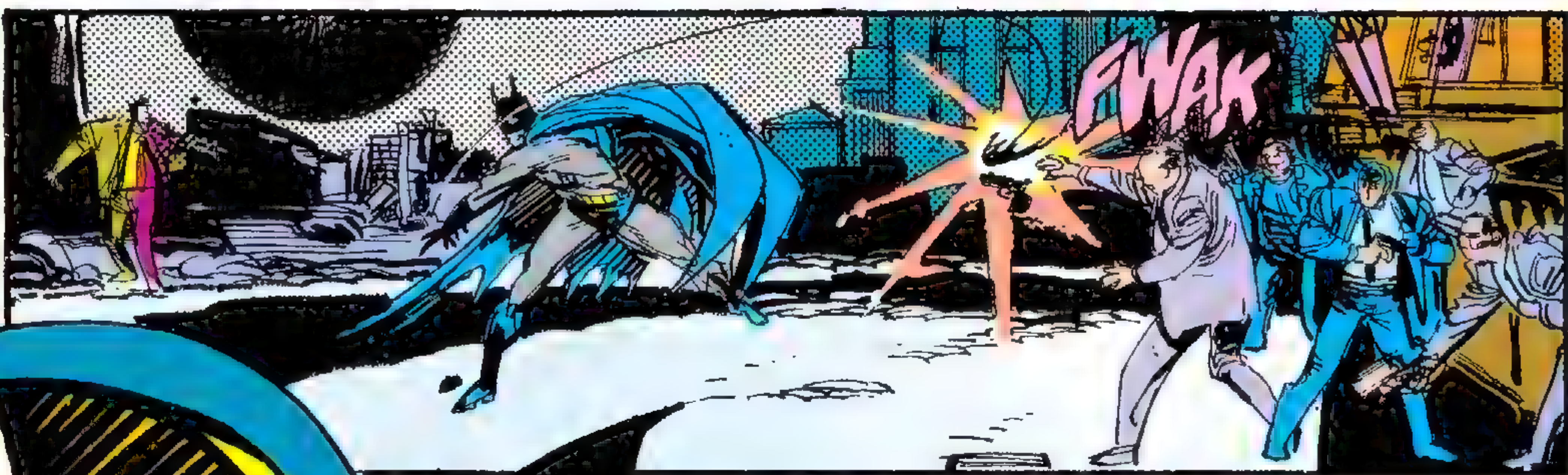
PERHAPS THE PLACE WHERE HE BECAME WHAT HE NOW IS... AND WHERE HE ONCE FUNCTIONED AS SOMETHING FAR DIFFERENT?

THE OLD COURTHOUSE!

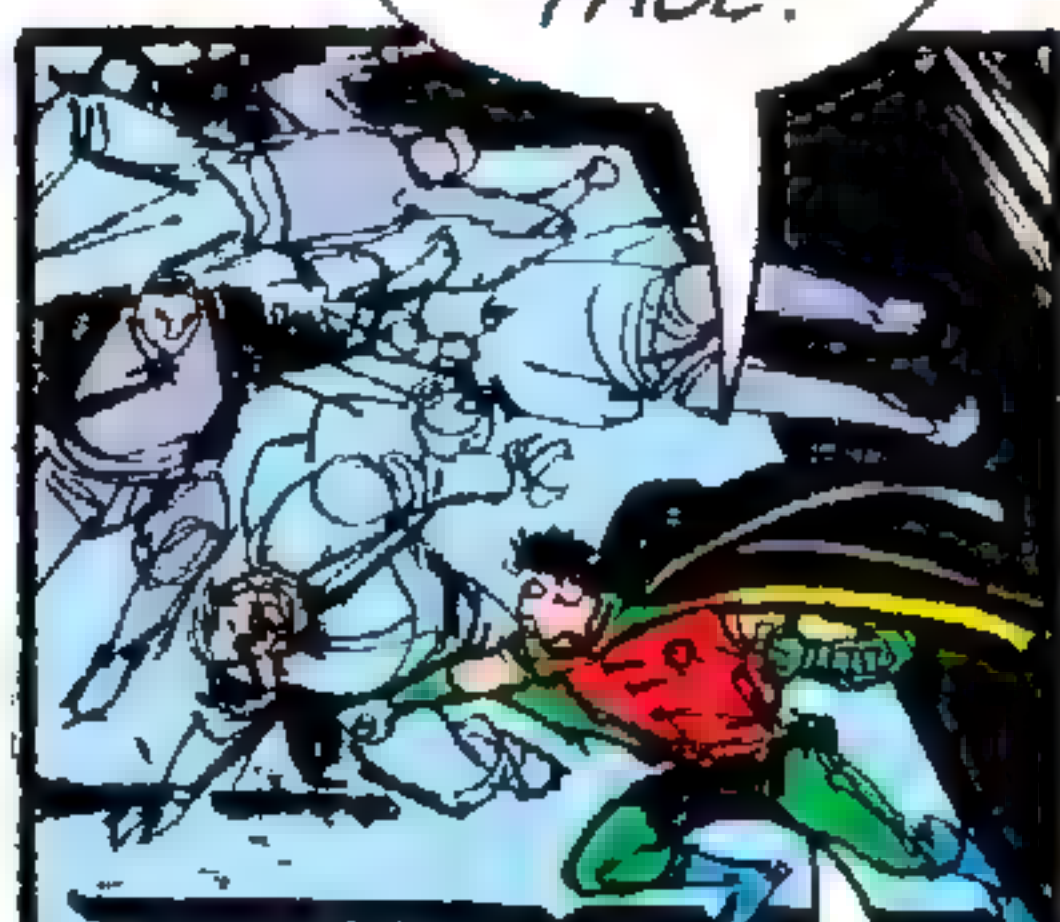
YEAH--DEFINITELY WORTH A SHOT!







GO,
BATMAN!
GET TWO-
FACE!



I'LL
HANDLE
THESE
THUGS!



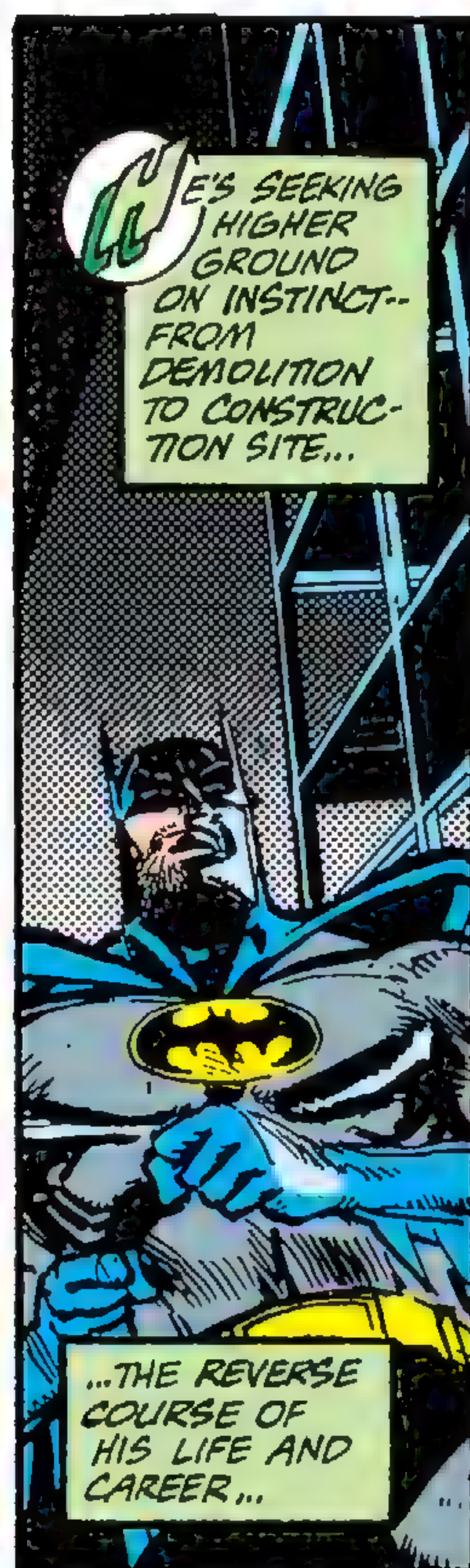
NO!
IT'S NOT
FAIR!

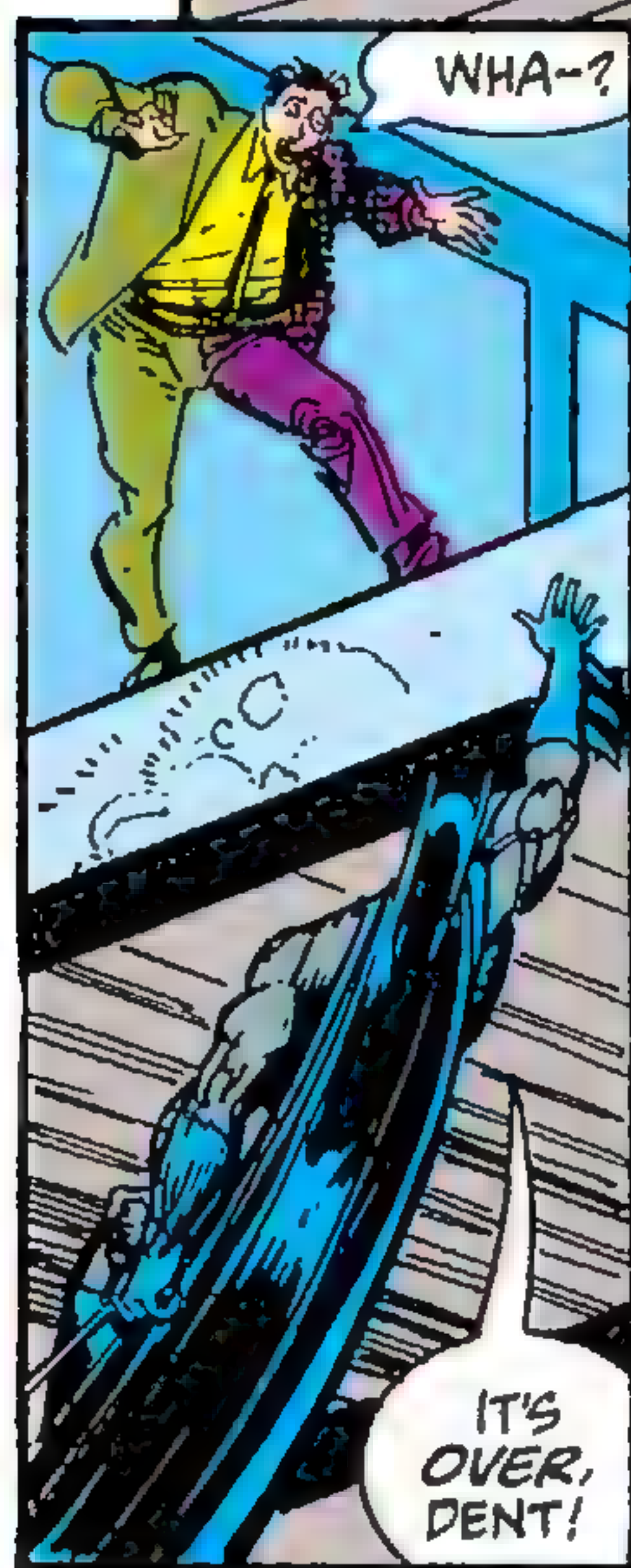
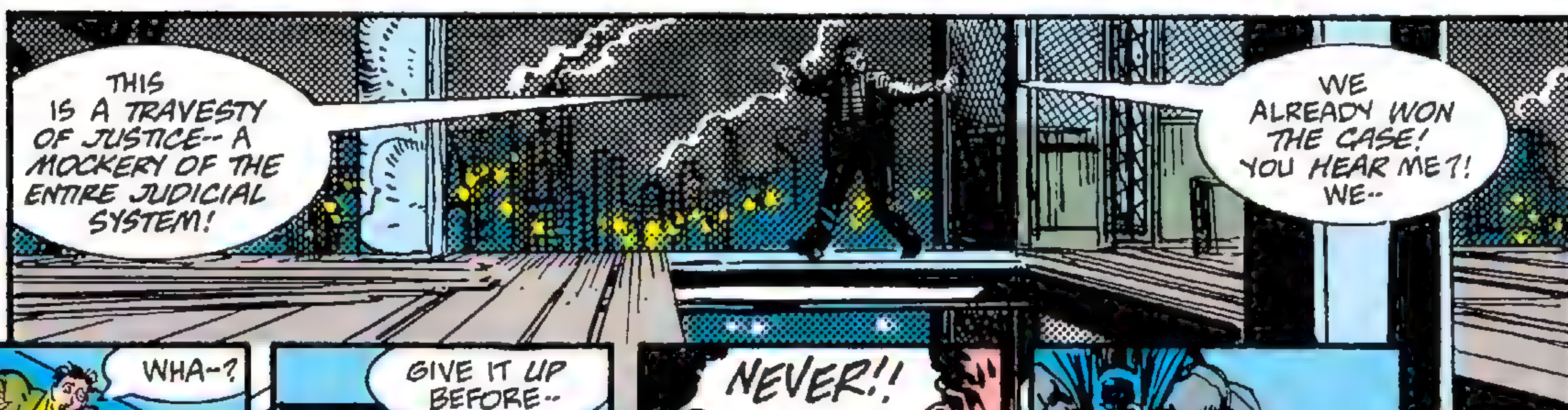
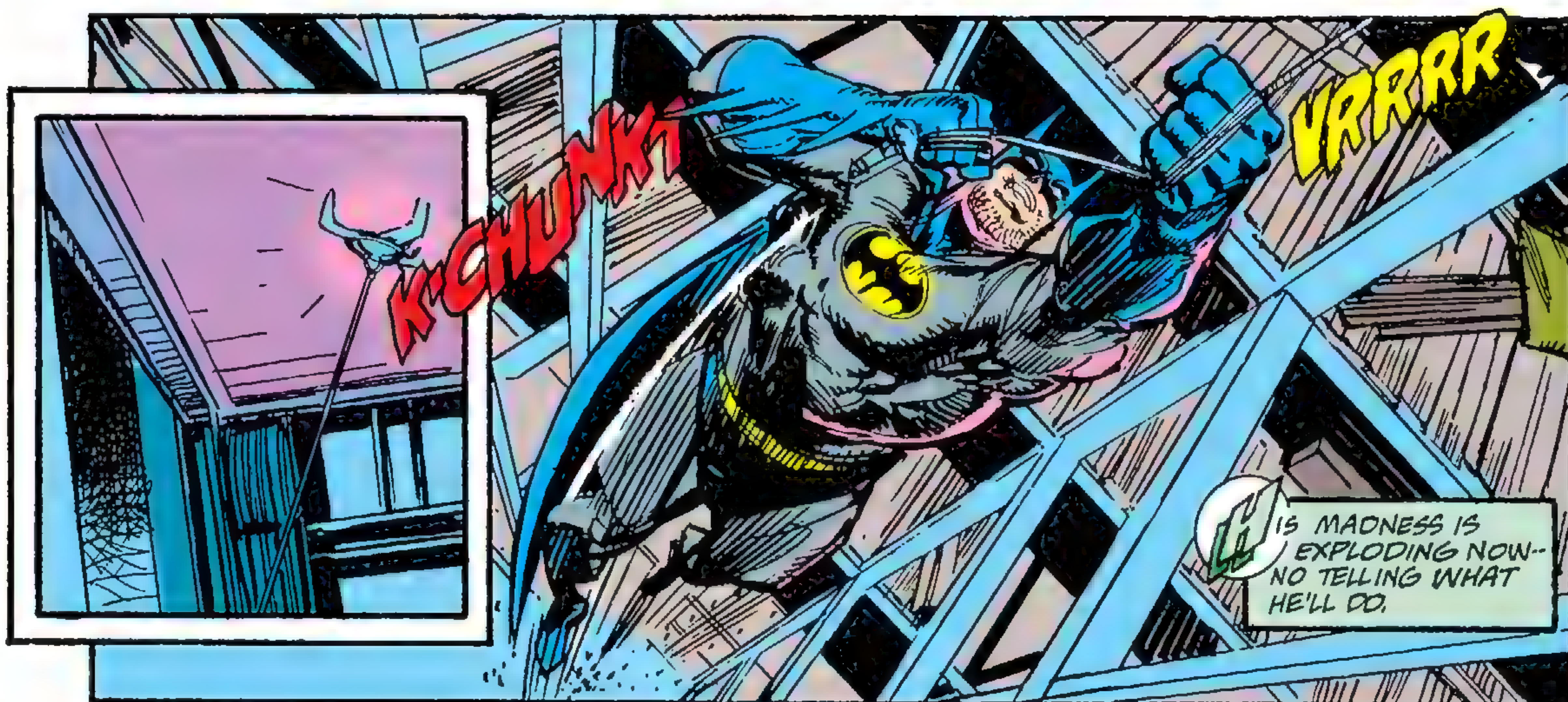


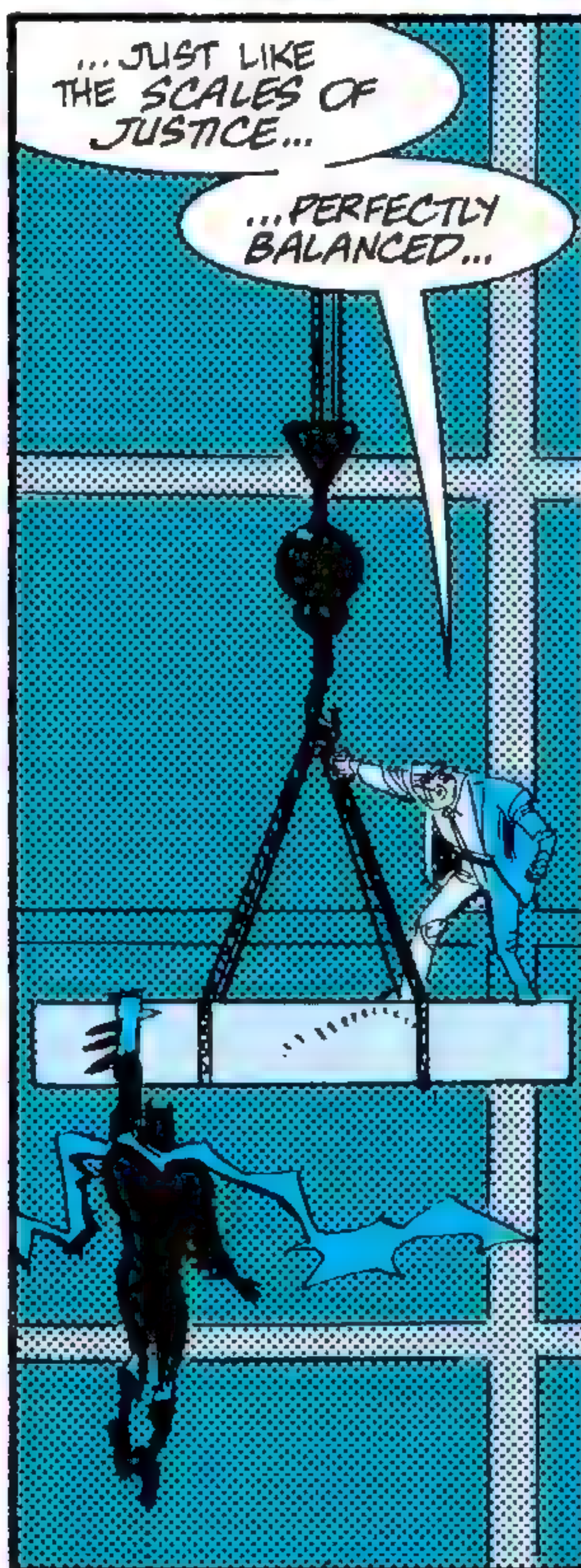
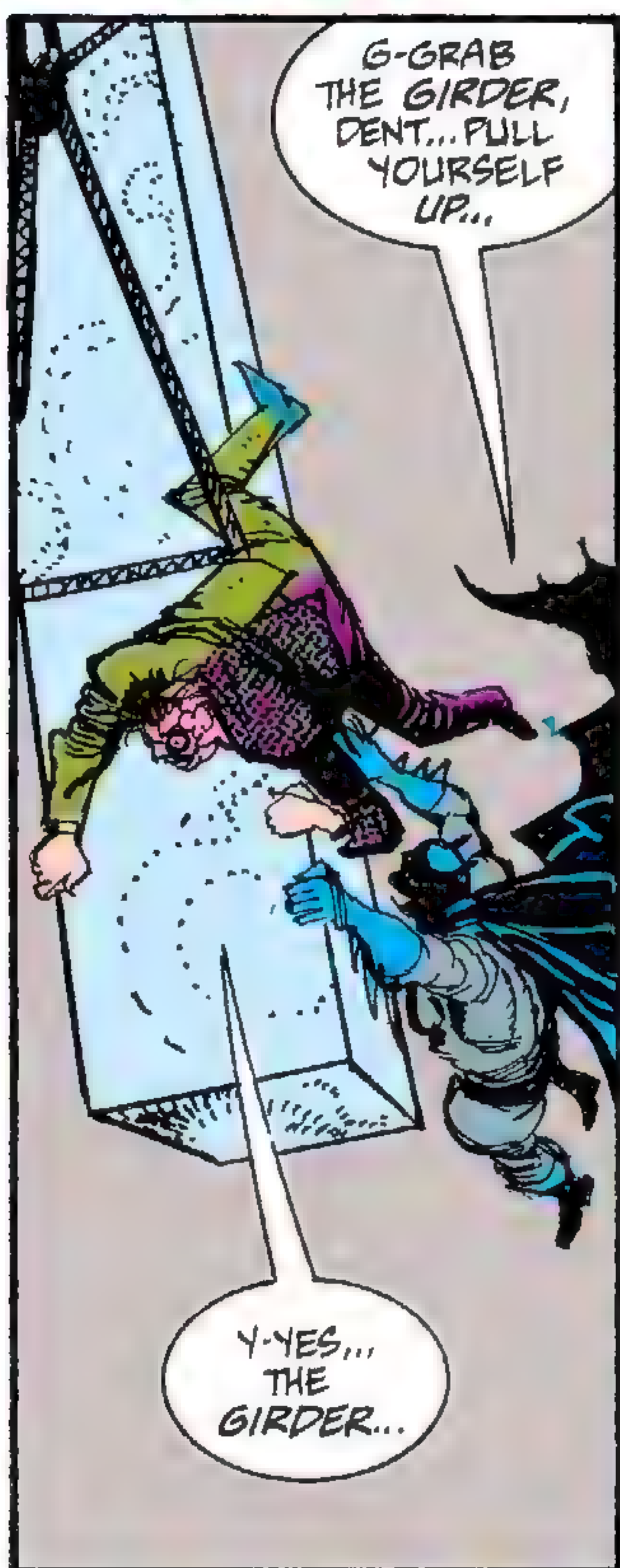
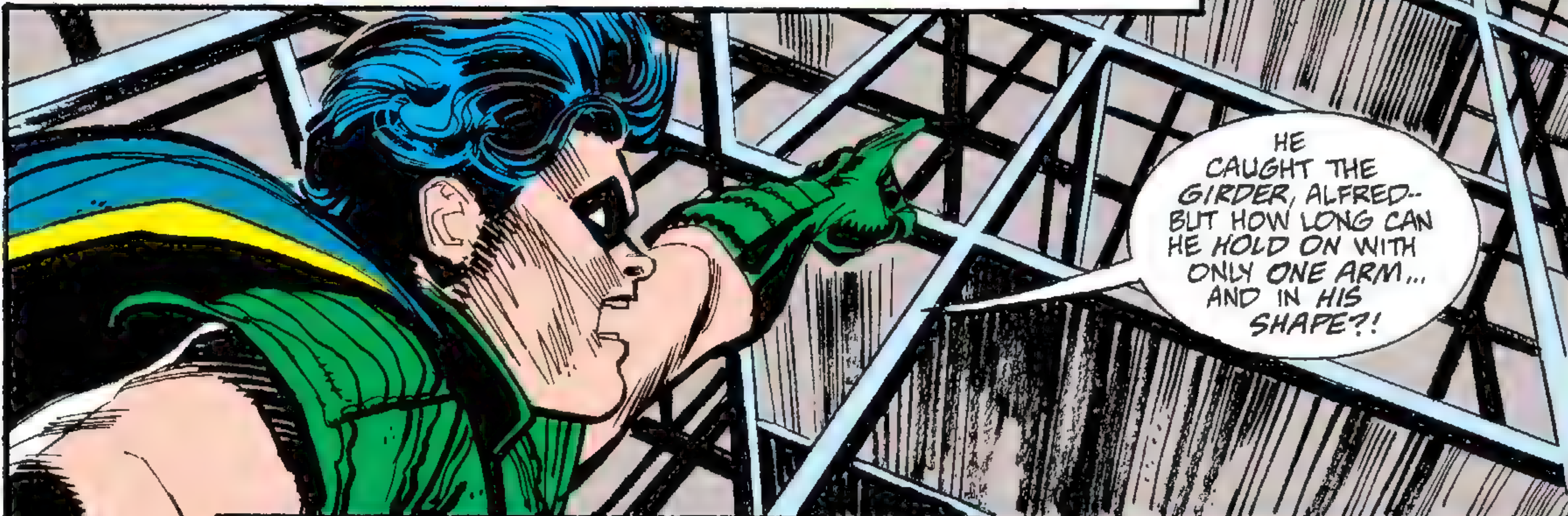
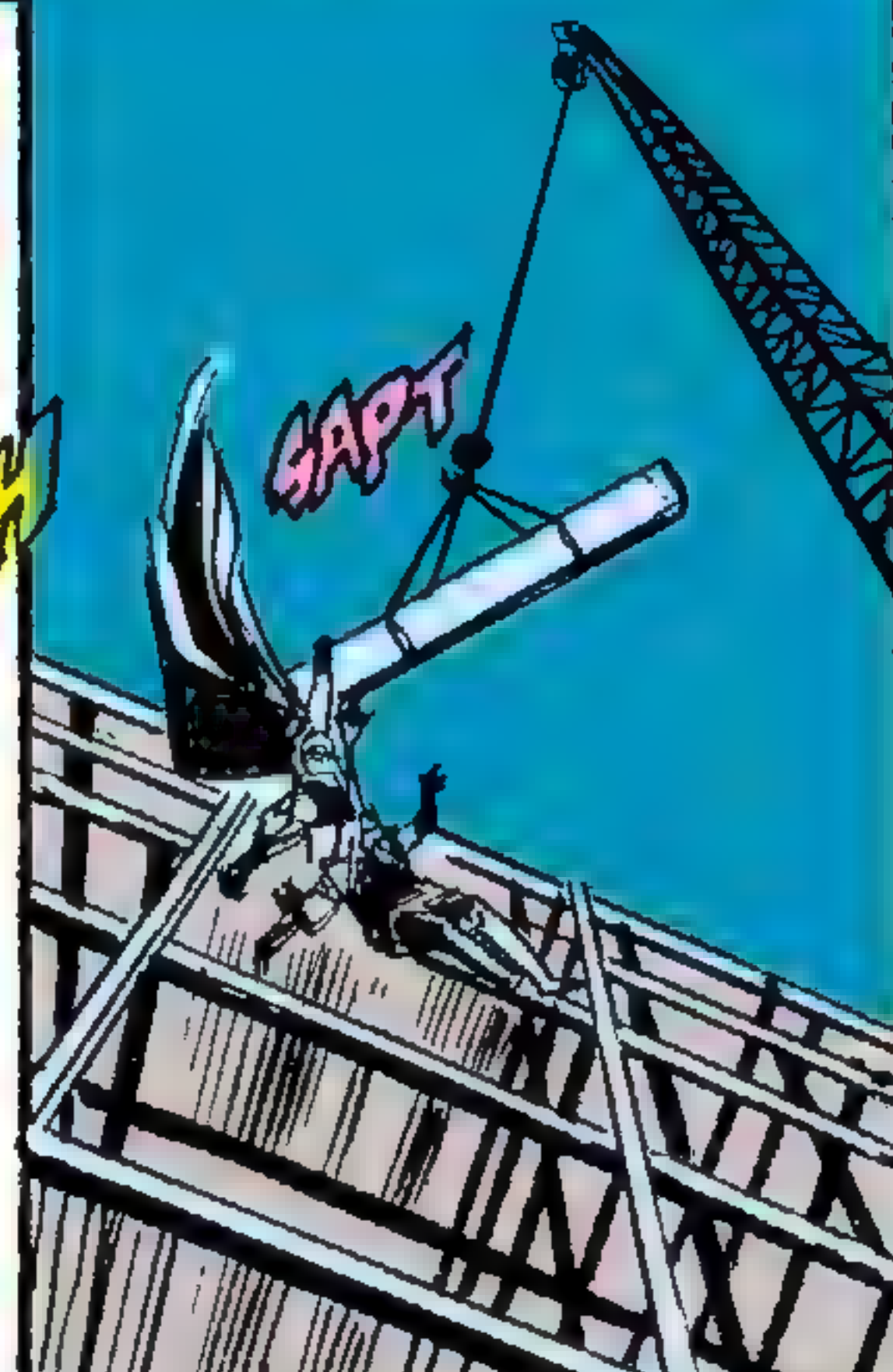
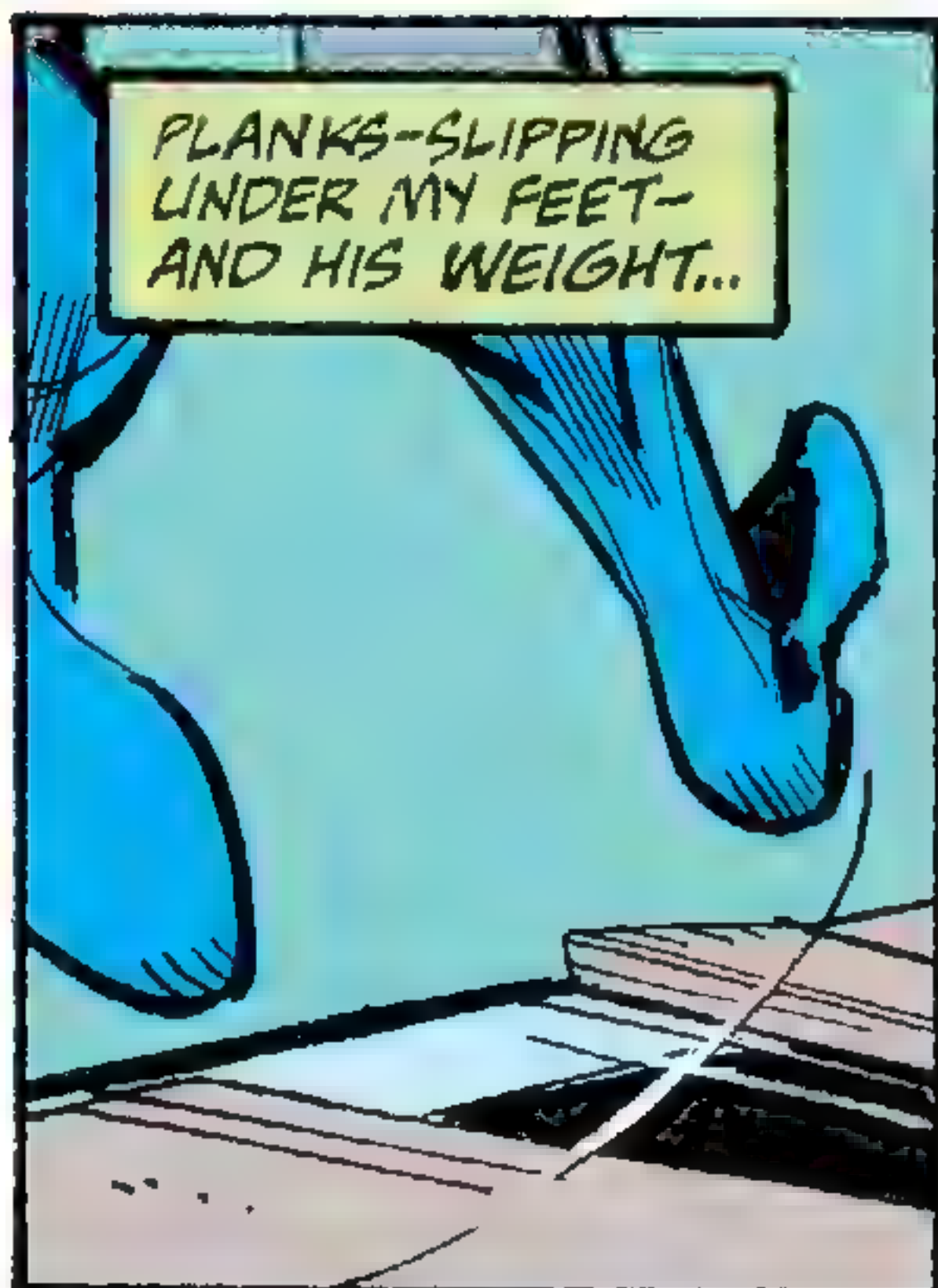
AHN!

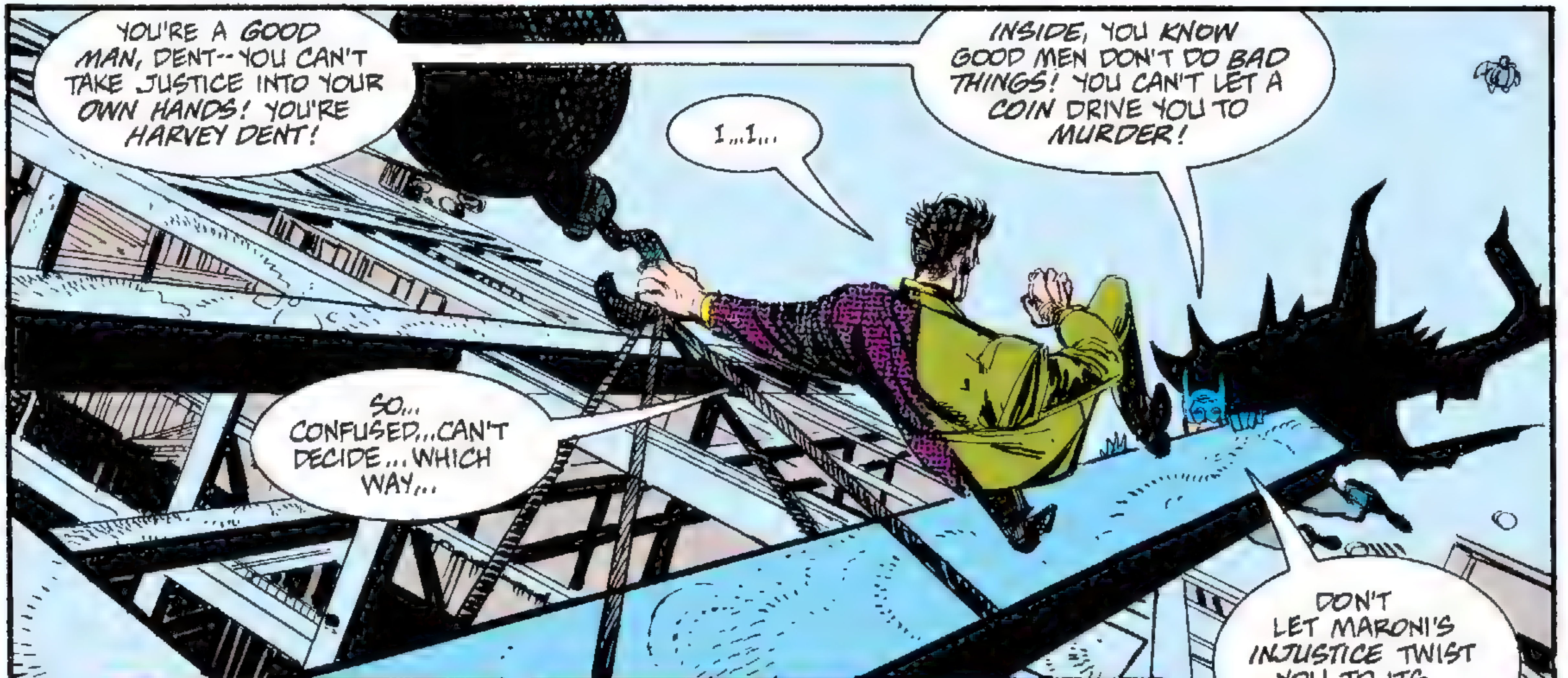
UHH!

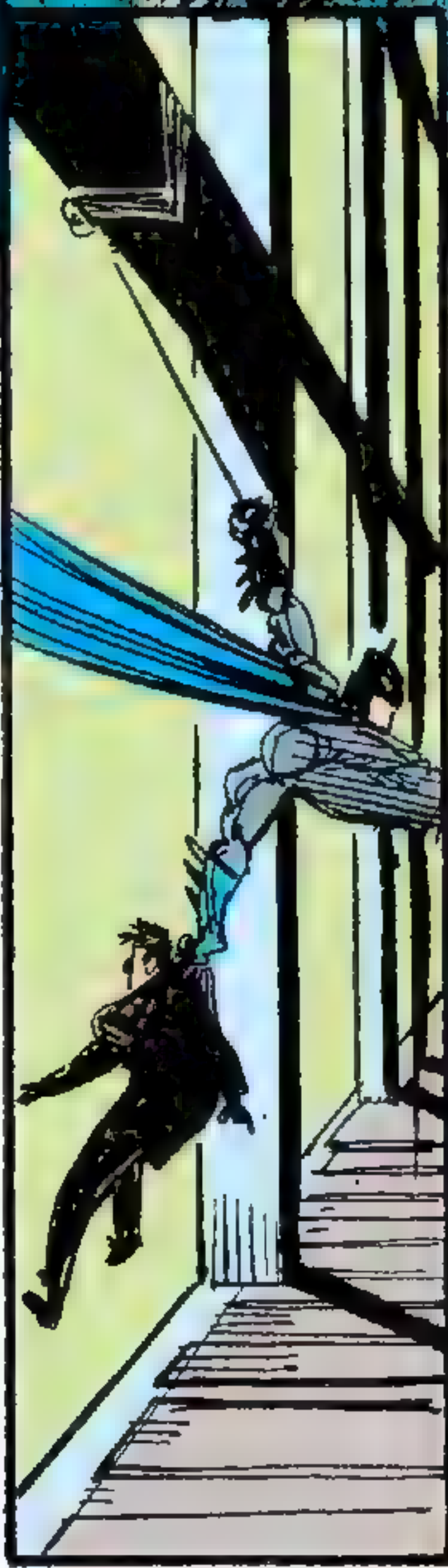
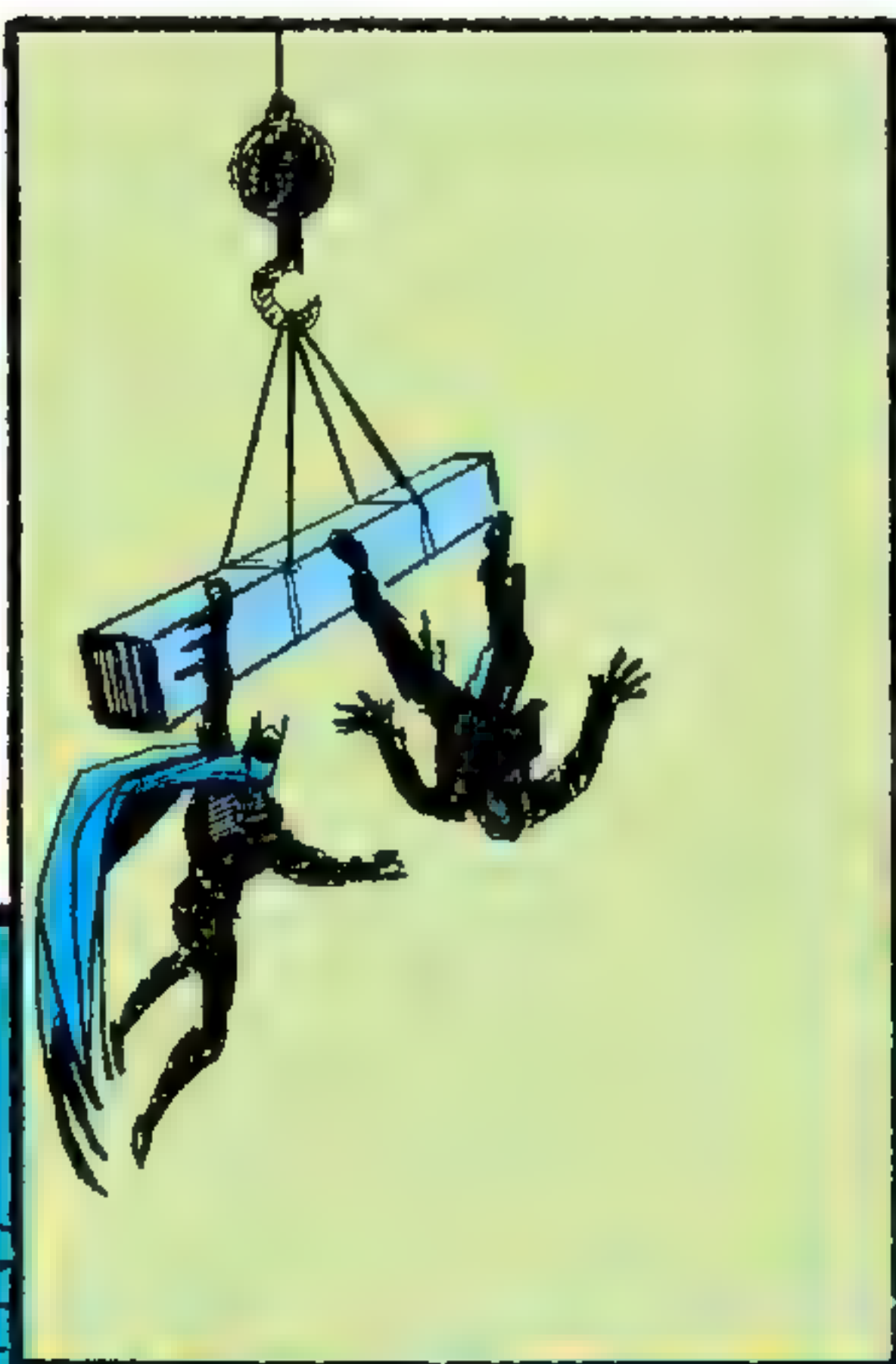
HIS
PARTNER--TWO
OF THEM NOW!

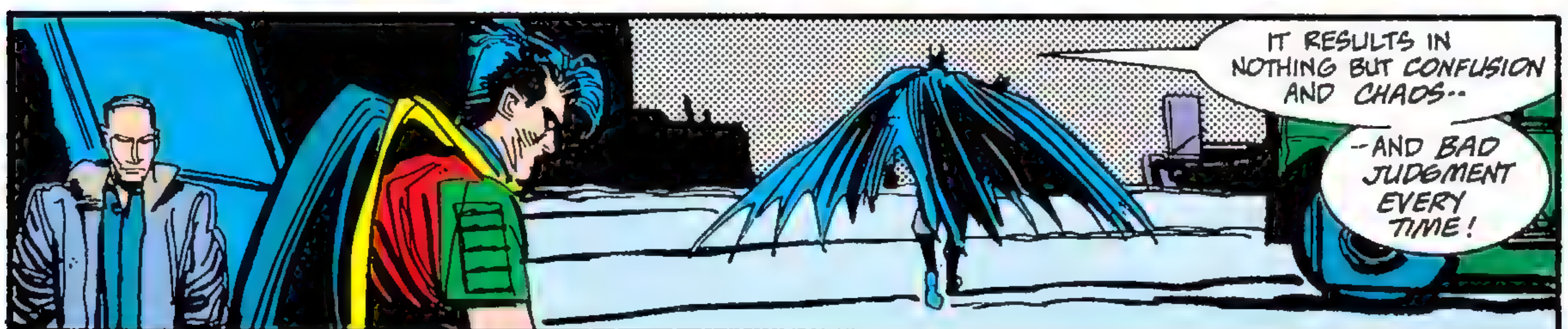
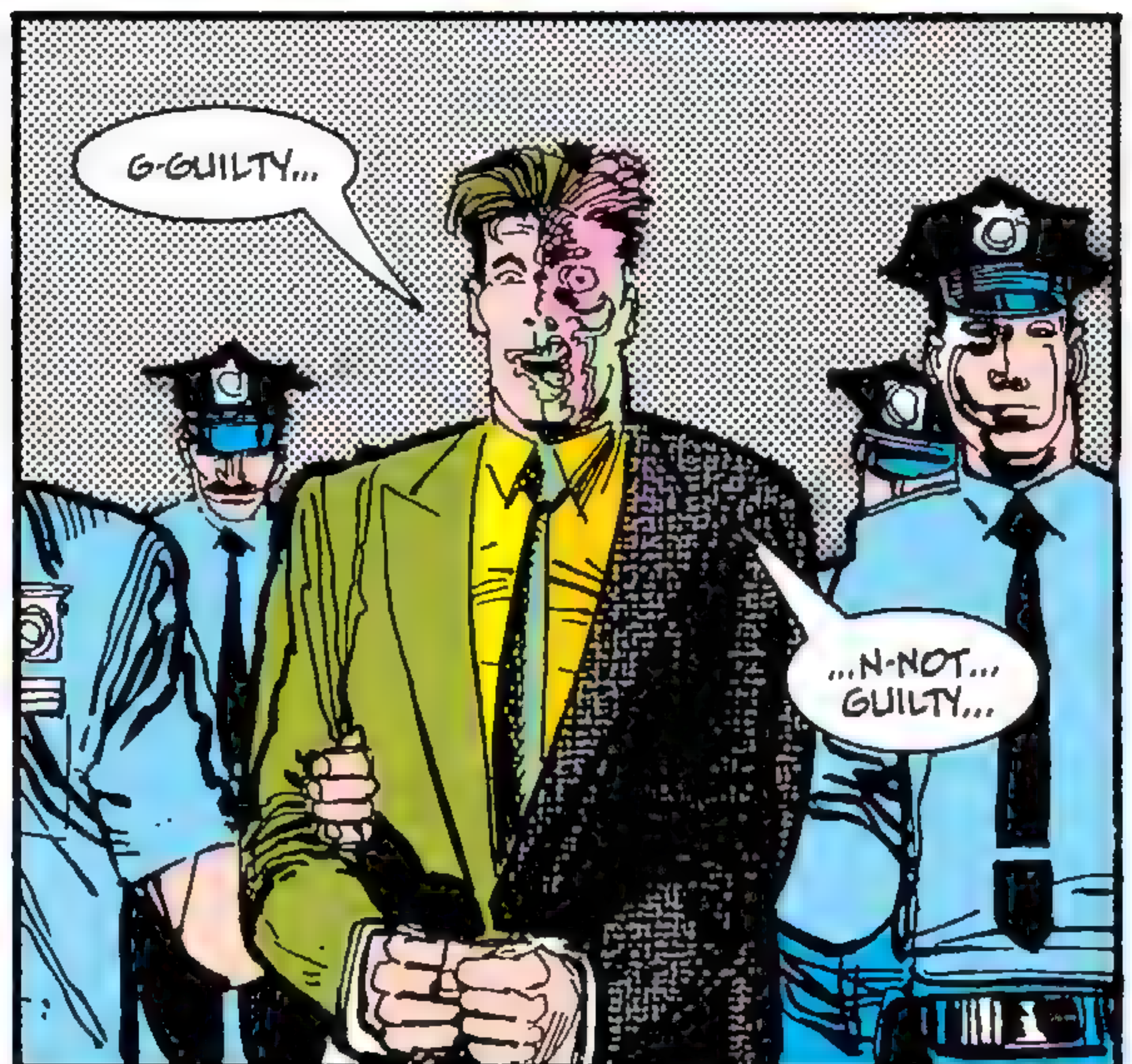
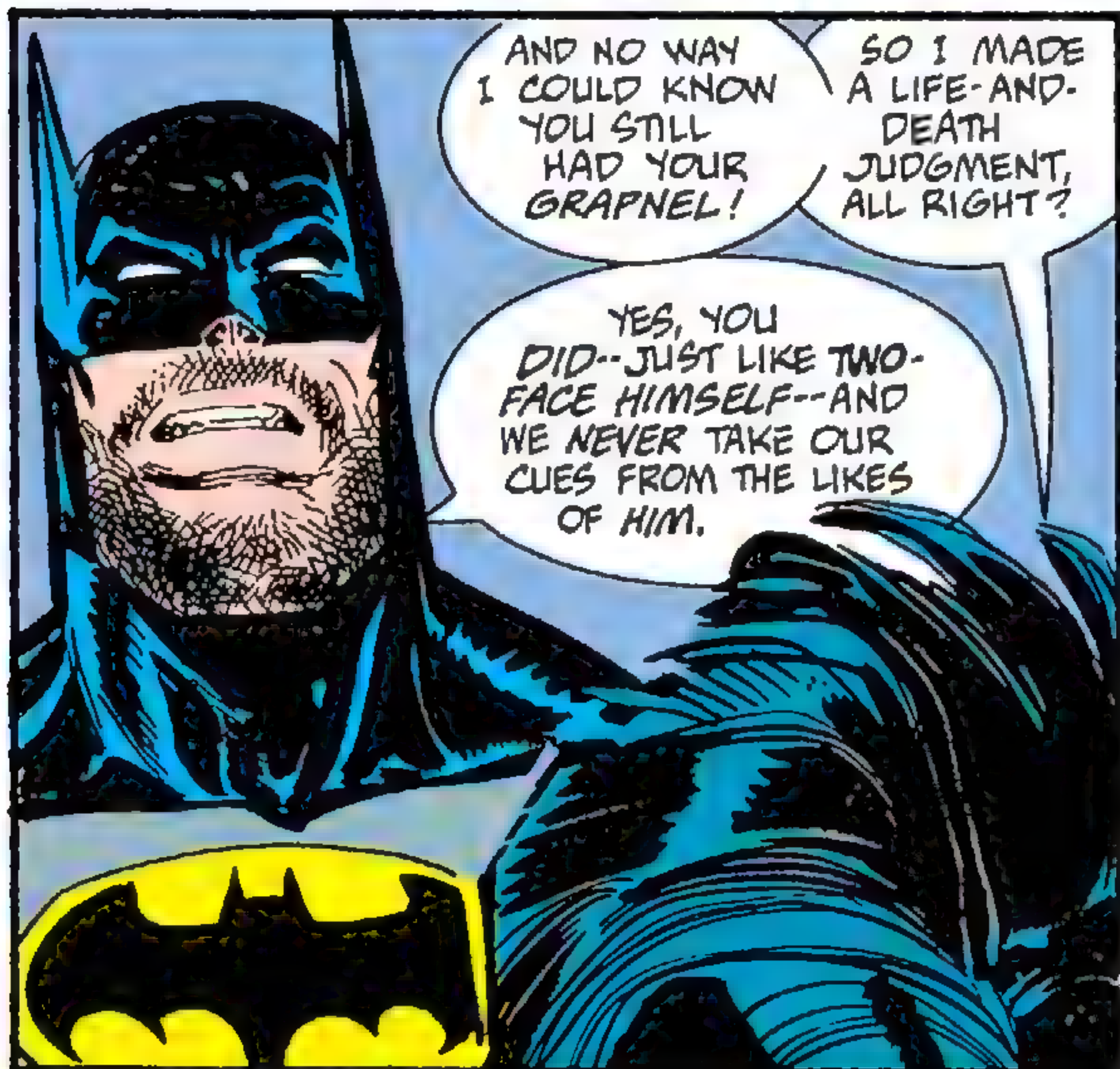
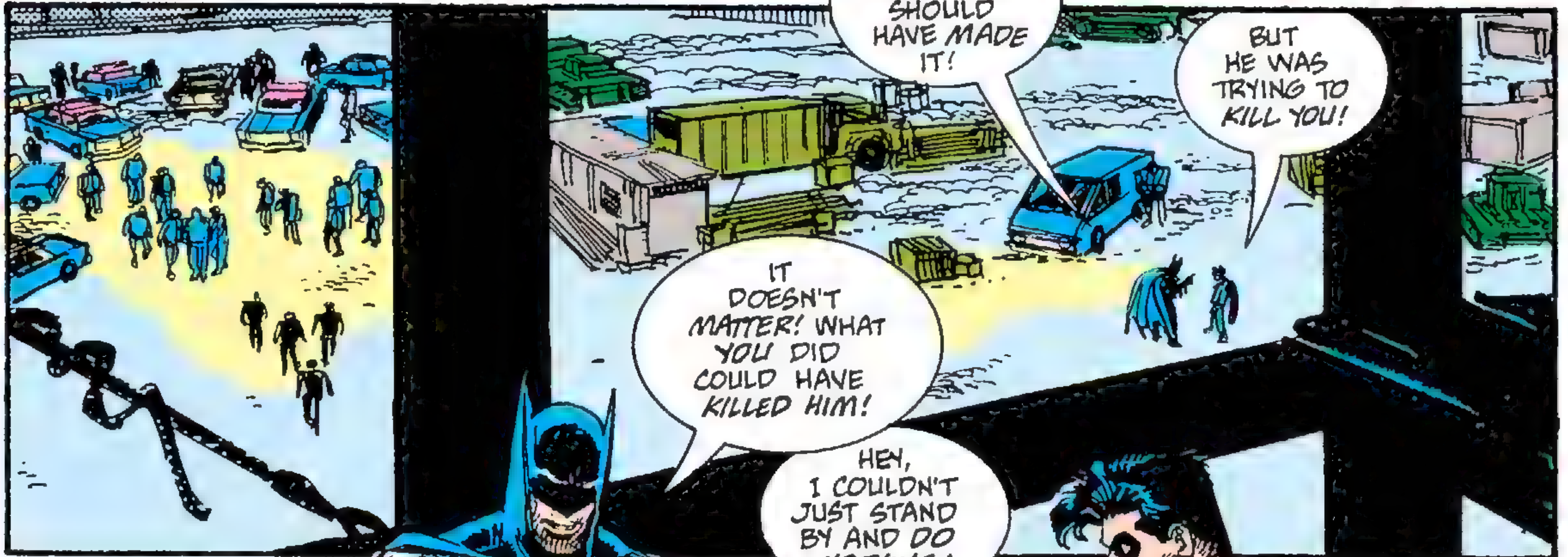














THE CAVE, WHERE THE DARK KNIGHT LIES FALLEN AND SILENT, THREE WEEKS LATER...

ALL MY FAULT... SHOULD HAVE ACTED SOONER...

...NO MATTER WHAT HE SAID...



AND NOW... WHAT IF HE... IF HE DOESN'T WAKE UP?

ONE OF OUR LAST MEMORIES COULD BE... HIM BLAMING ME... BLAMING ME FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS...



PLEASE, SIR... YOU'RE STRONGER THAN THIS...

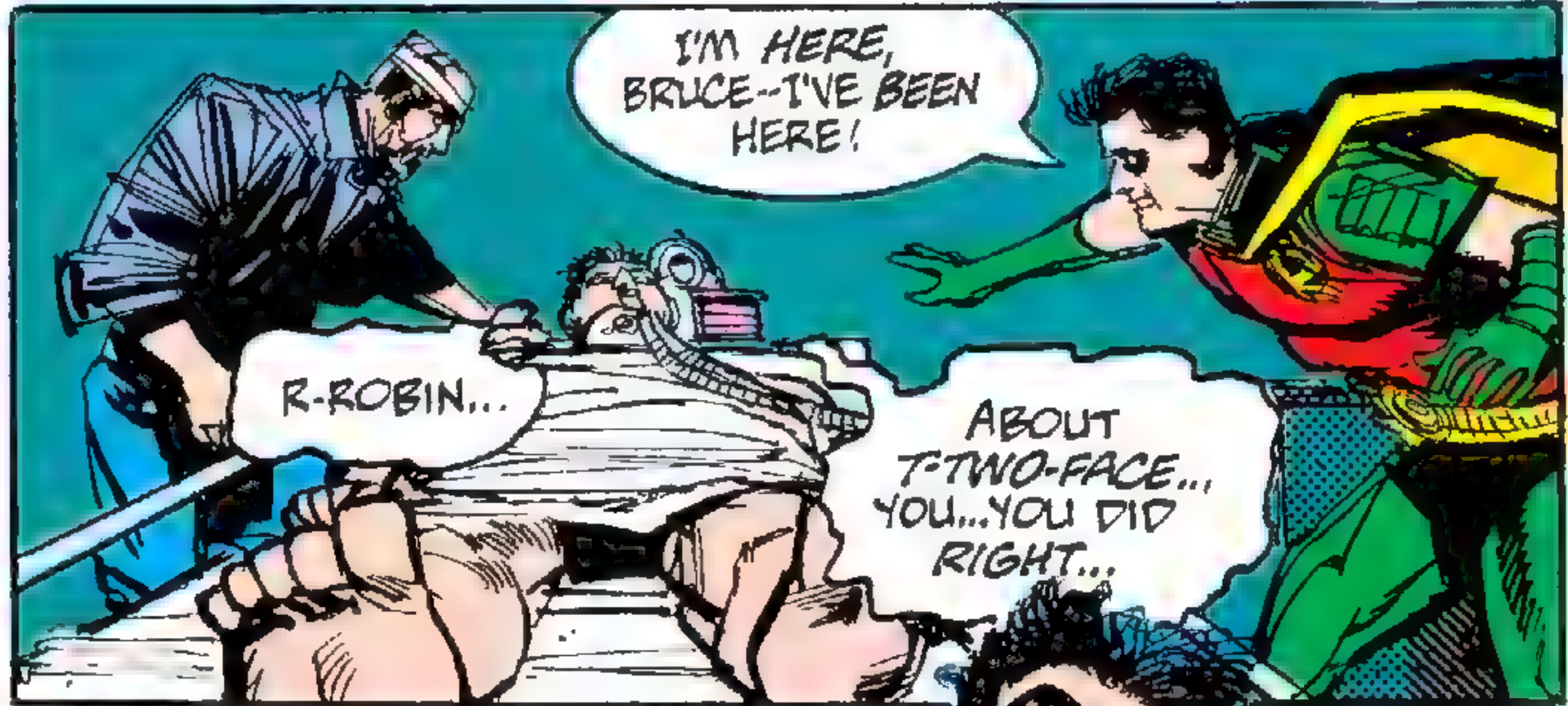
I... I KNOW YOU ARE.



A-ALFRED?

THE DECADRON-- IT WORKED!

YOU'RE BACK, SIR-- THANK GOD, YOU'RE BACK!



I'M HERE, BRUCE-- I'VE BEEN HERE!

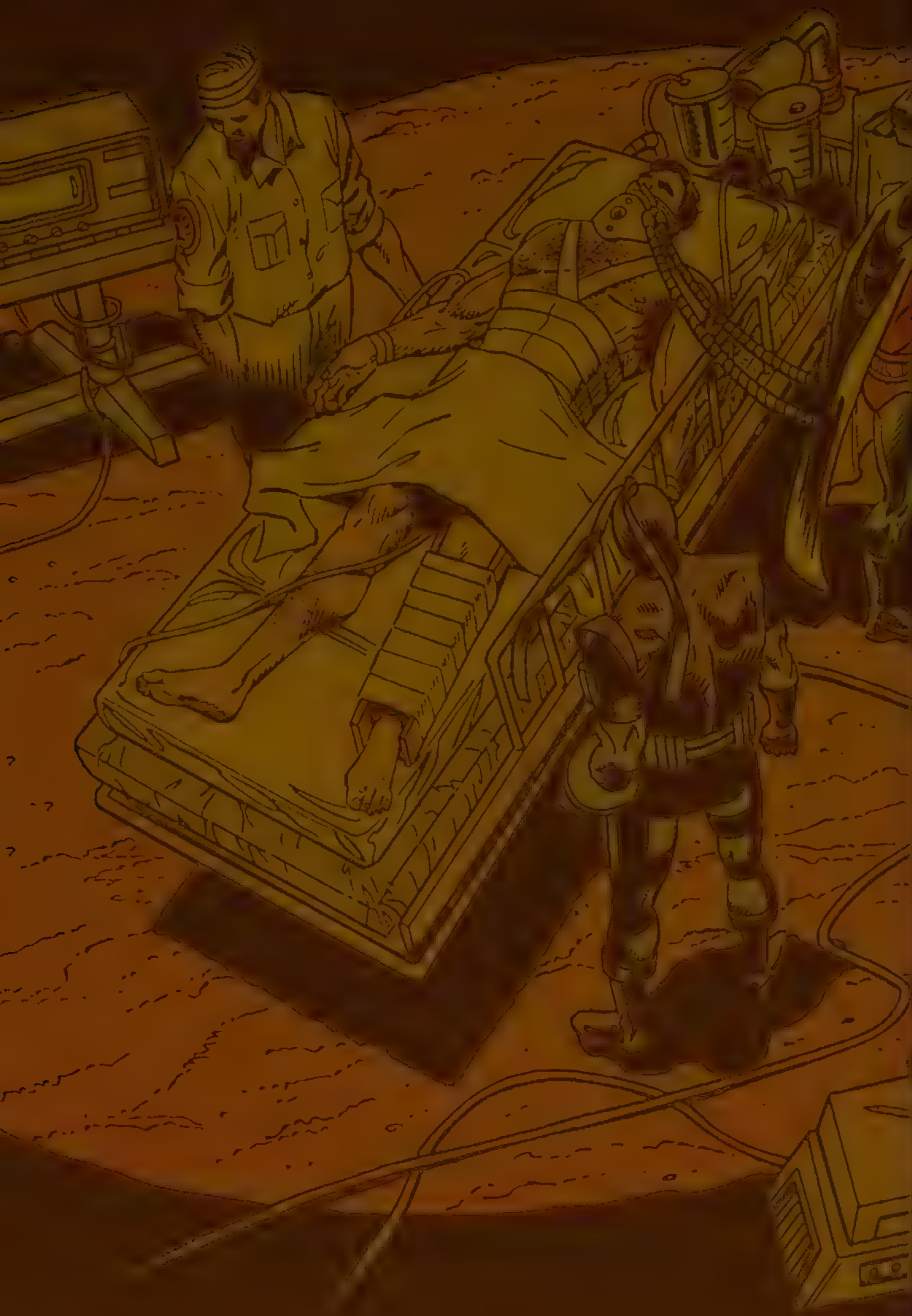
R-ROBIN...

ABOUT T-TWO-FACE... YOU... YOU DID RIGHT...



...AND IT... IT WASN'T BAD JUDGMENT... NOT AT ALL.

End





BATMAN

498
AUG 93

KNIGHTFALL

15

BATMAN

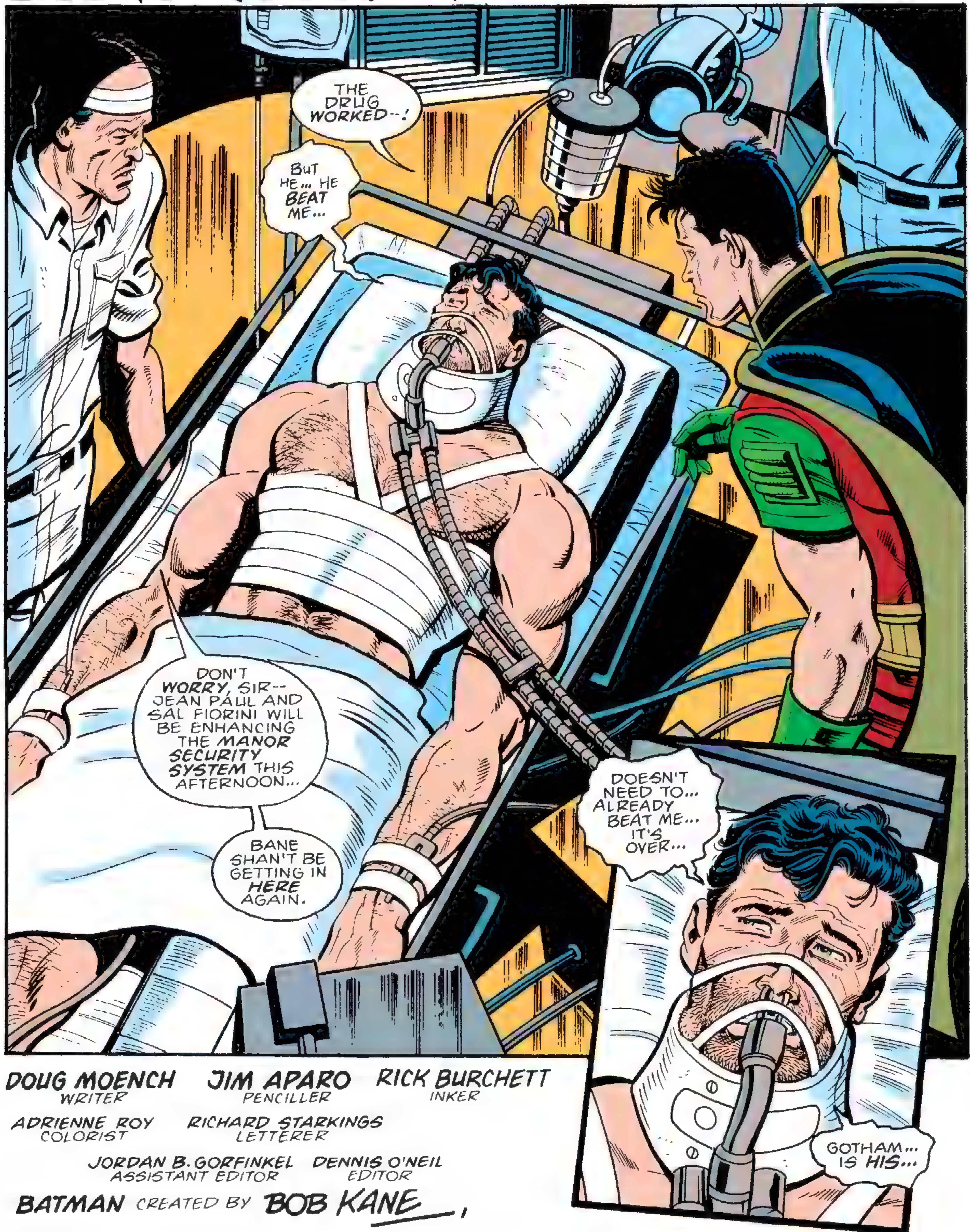
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

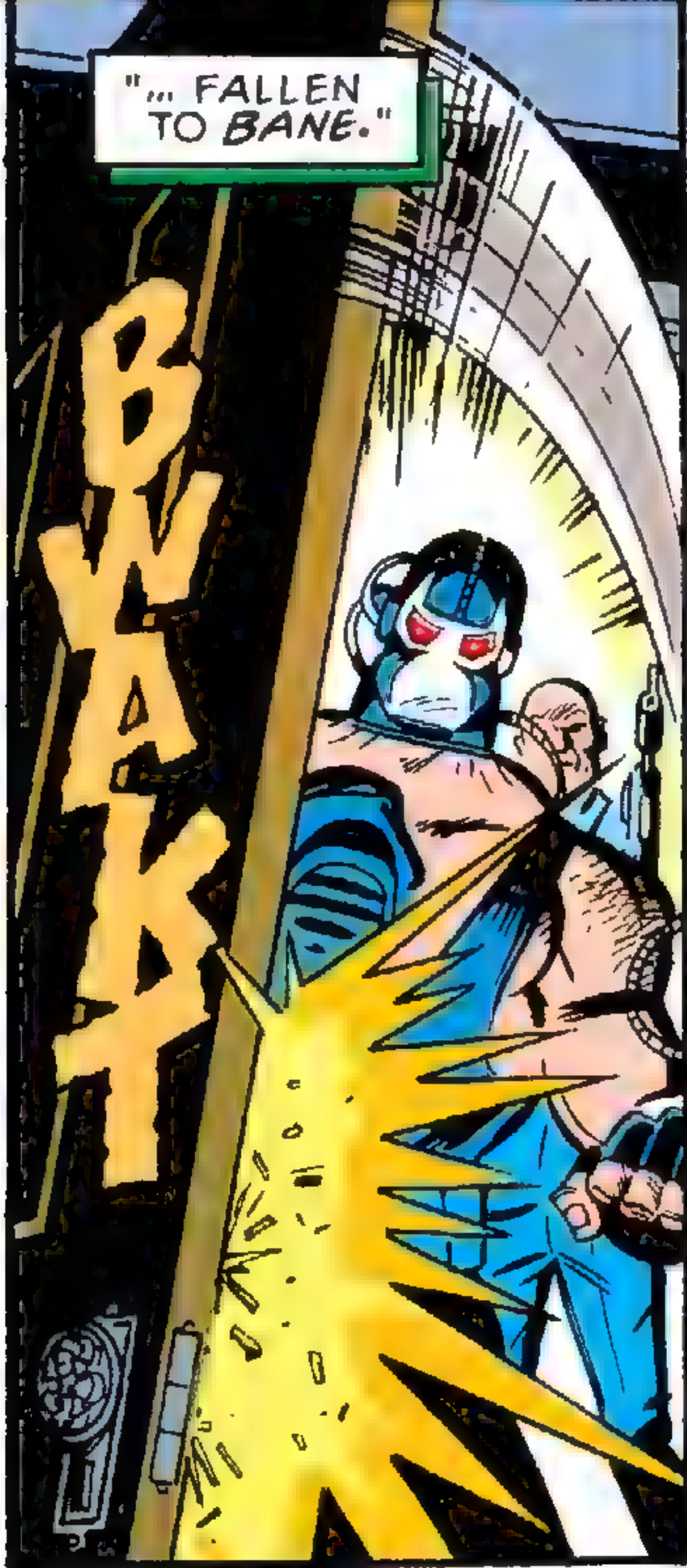


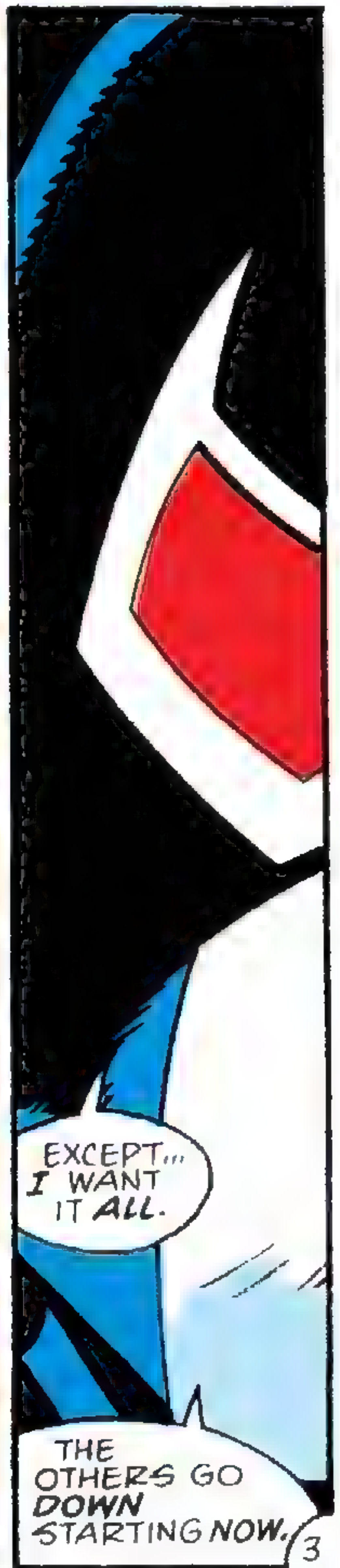
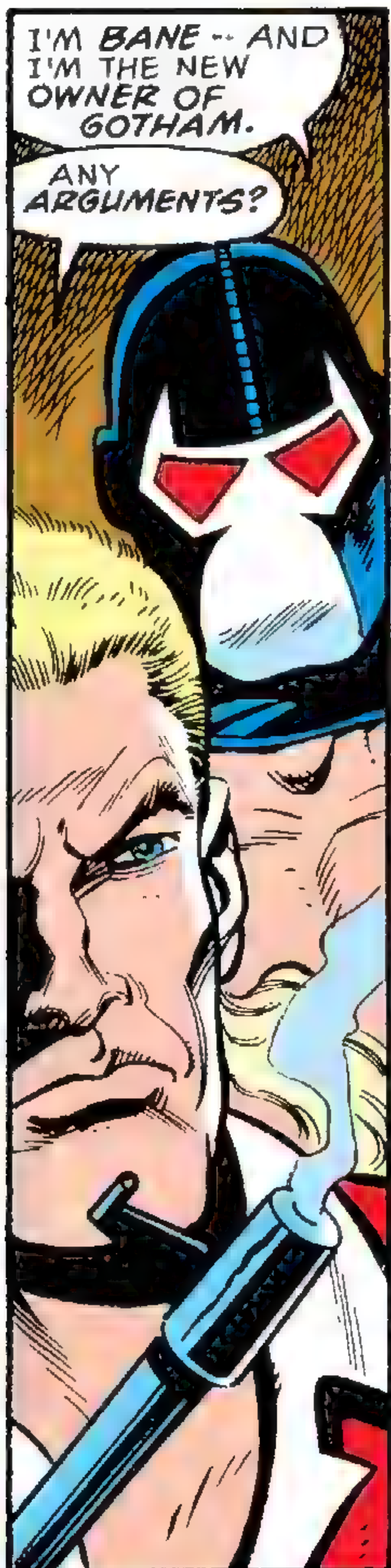
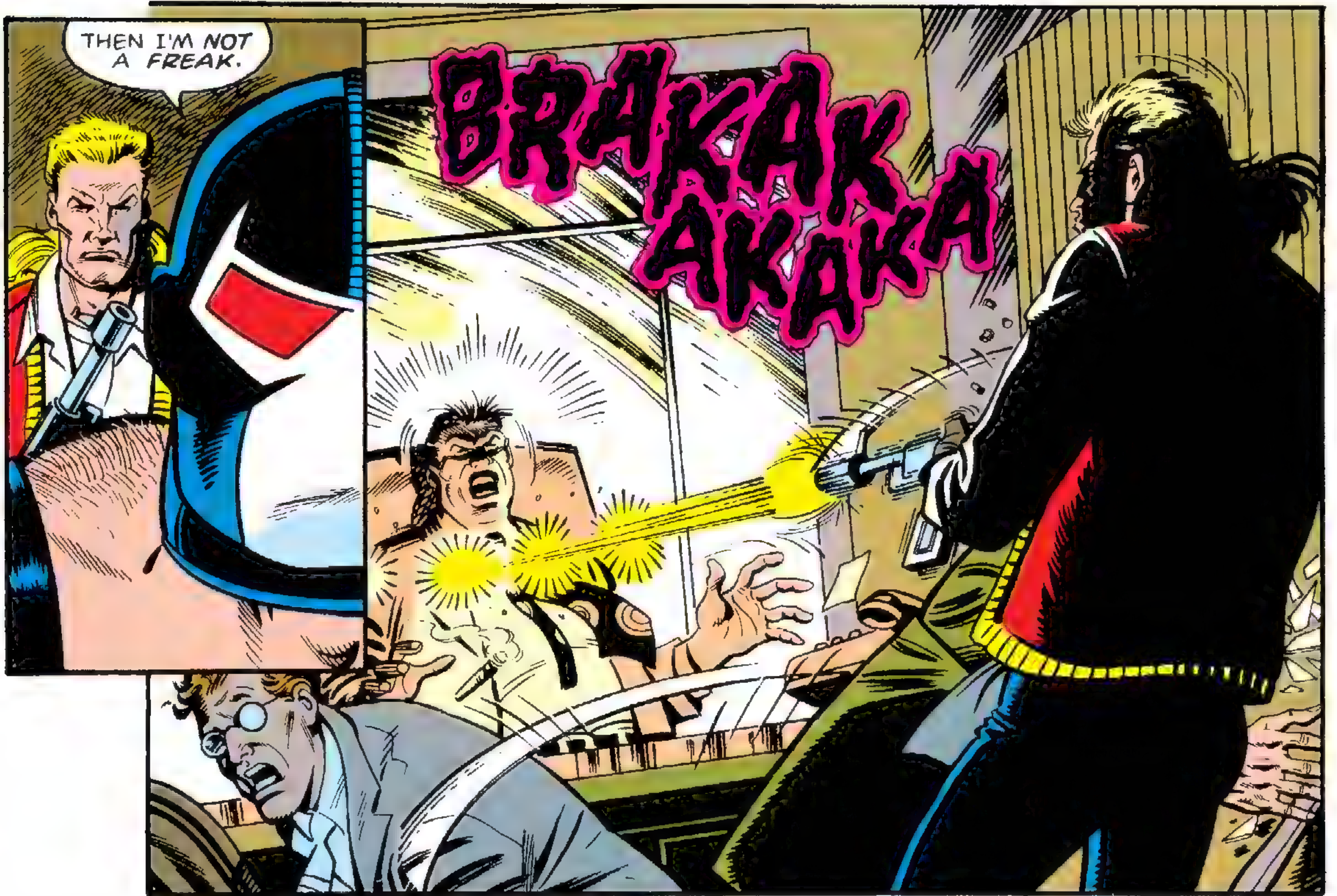


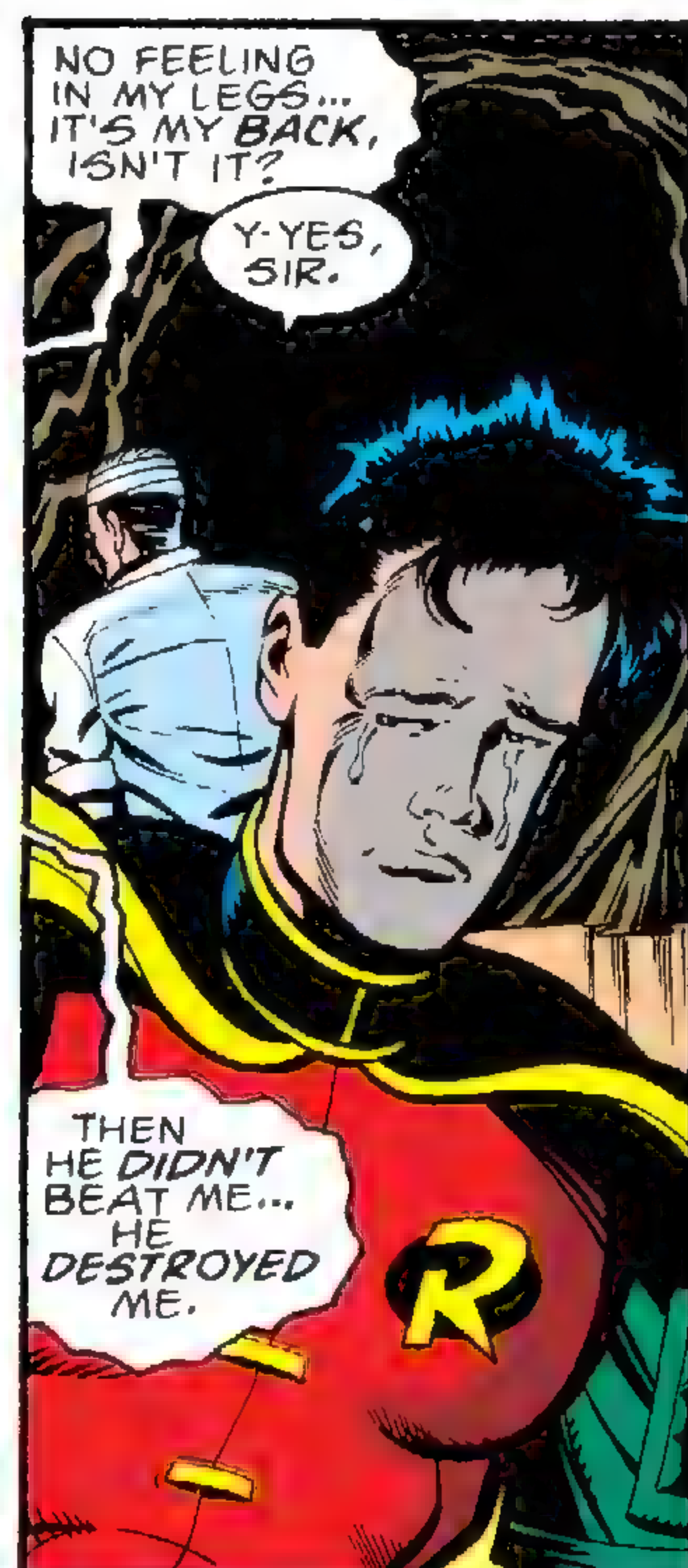
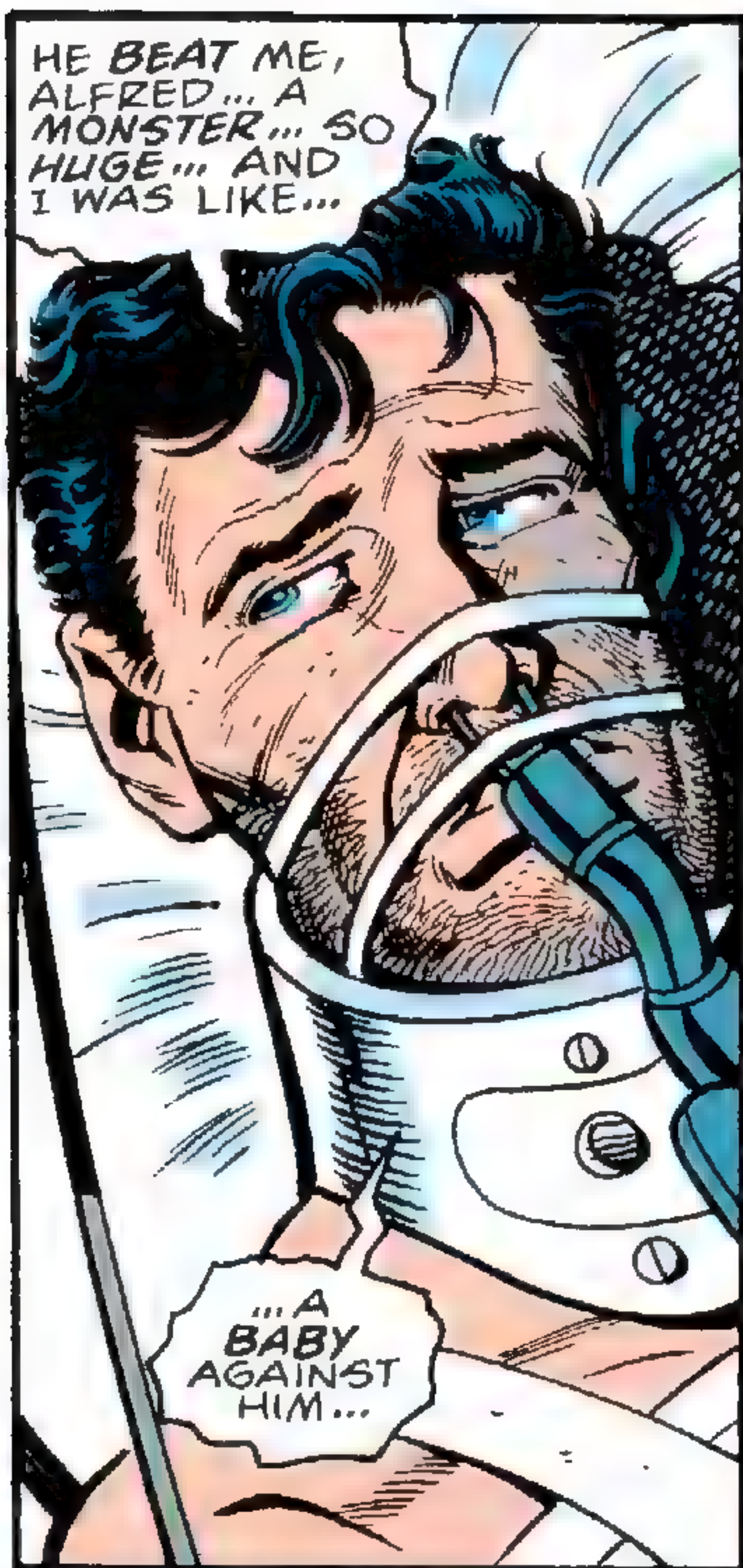
Cover art by
KELLEY JONES

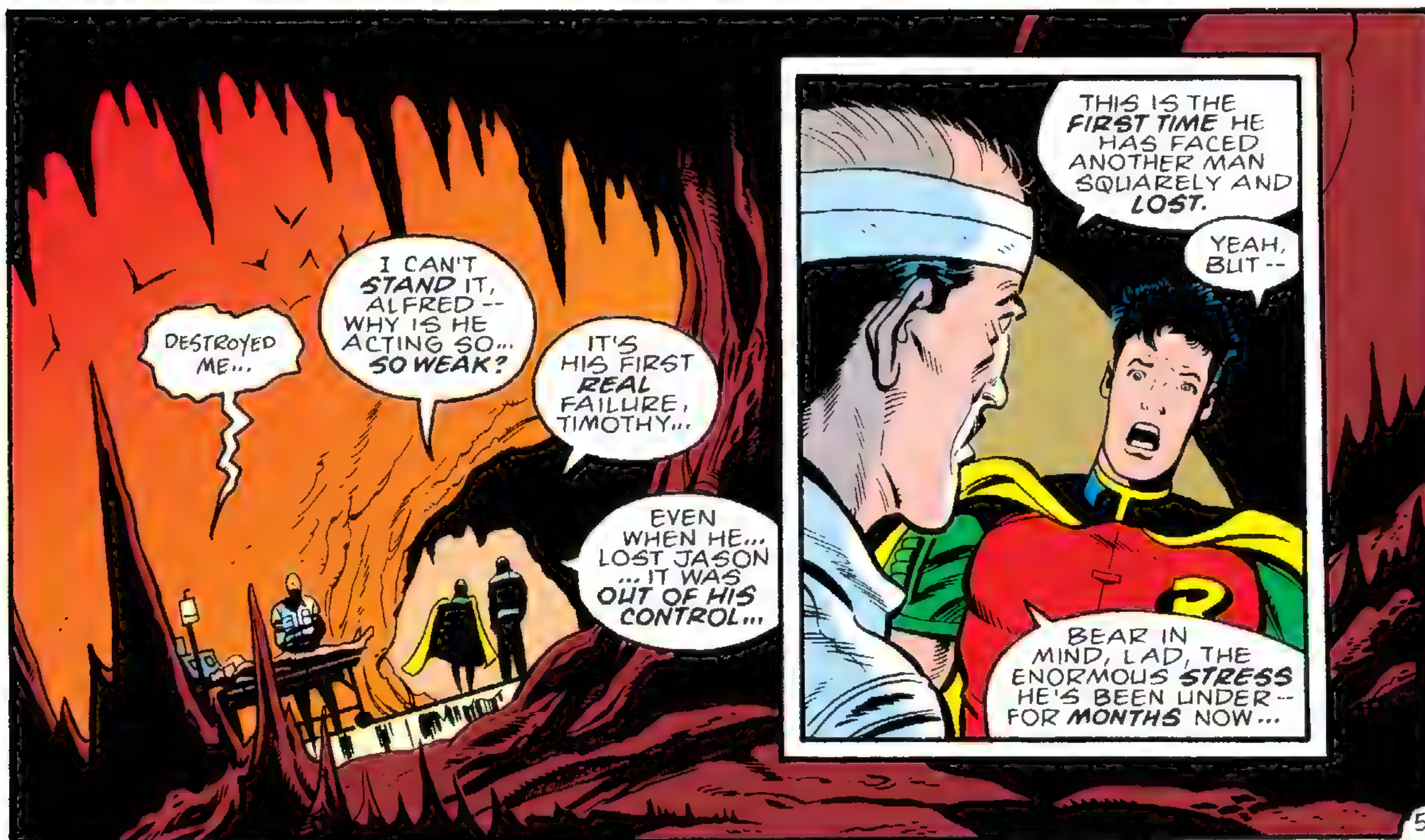
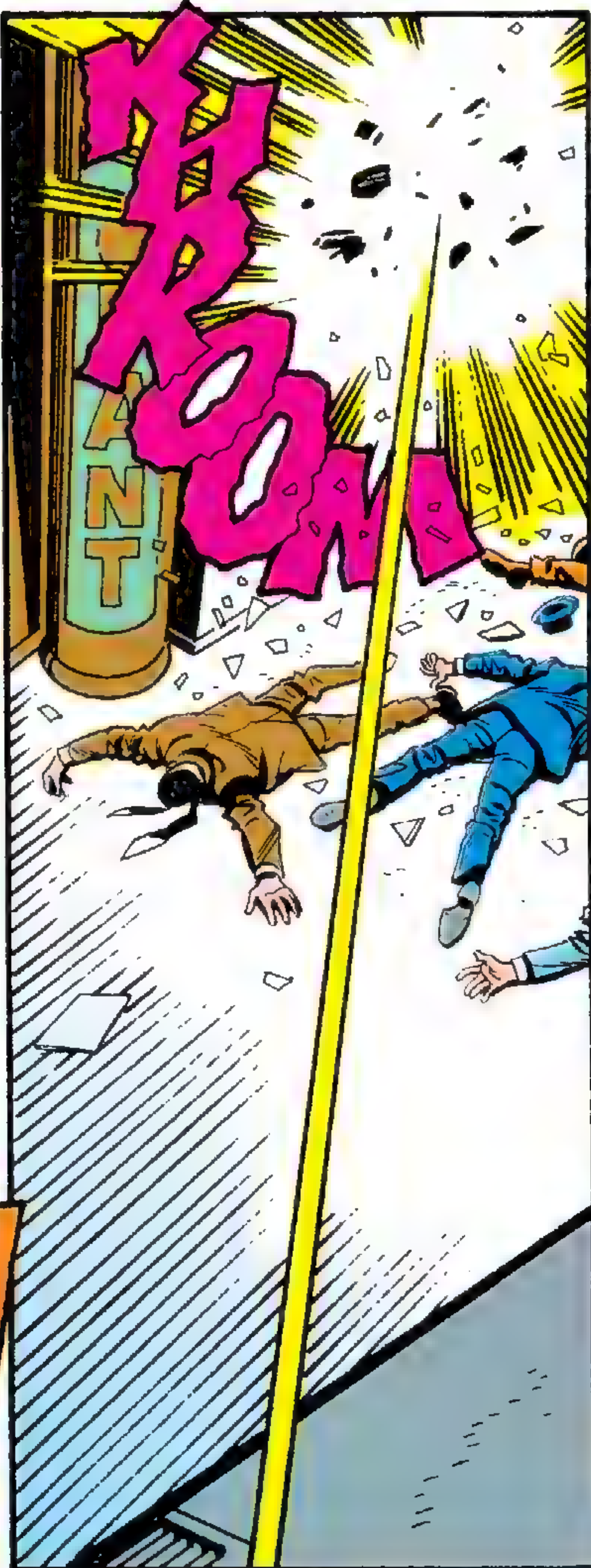
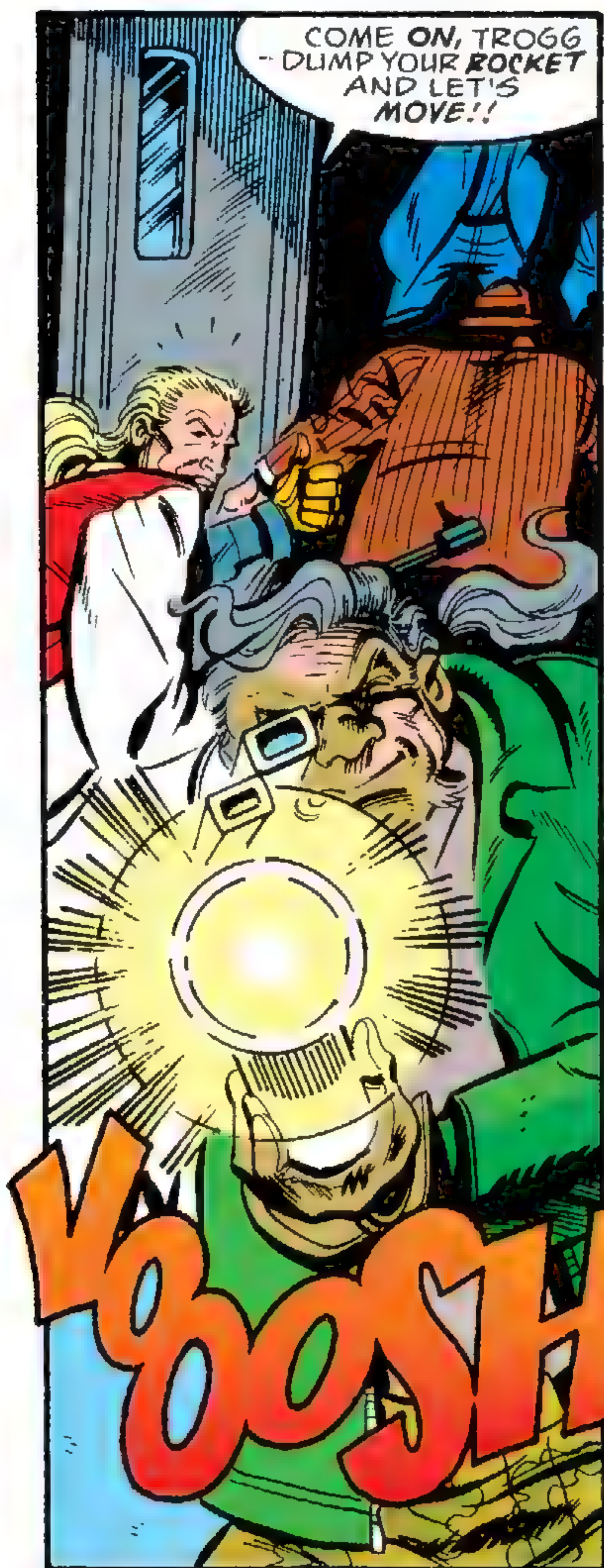
KNIGHTS IN DARKNESS













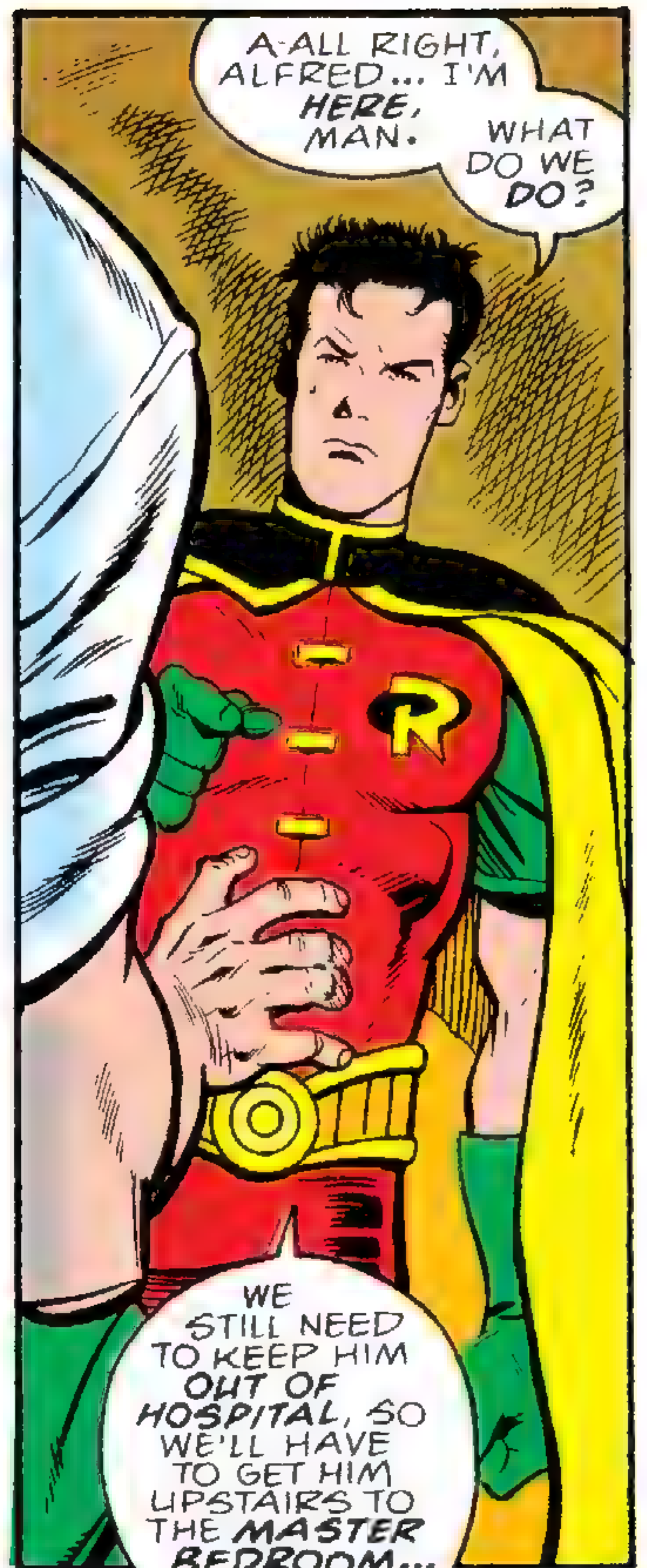
SUCH A PROLONGED ORDEAL MUST EXACT ITS TOLL -- ON ANY MAN.

NOT HIM, ALFRED! I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE HIM LIKE --



SNAP OUT OF IT, TIM! THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS MAY BE OVER, BUT THE MASTER STILL NEEDS US!

THERE'S STILL MUCH TO DO -- AND I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



A-ALL RIGHT, ALFRED... I'M HERE, MAN.

WHAT DO WE DO?

WE STILL NEED TO KEEP HIM OUT OF HOSPITAL, SO WE'LL HAVE TO GET HIM UPSTAIRS TO THE MASTER BEDROOM...

I'LL 'PHONE LUCIUS FOX AND HAVE HIM ARRANGE DELIVERY OF ALL THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT...



STILL, ALL THE EQUIPMENT MONEY CAN BUY WON'T DO ONE WHIT OF GOOD WITHOUT A DOCTOR...

SHONDRA KINSOLVING!

SNAP

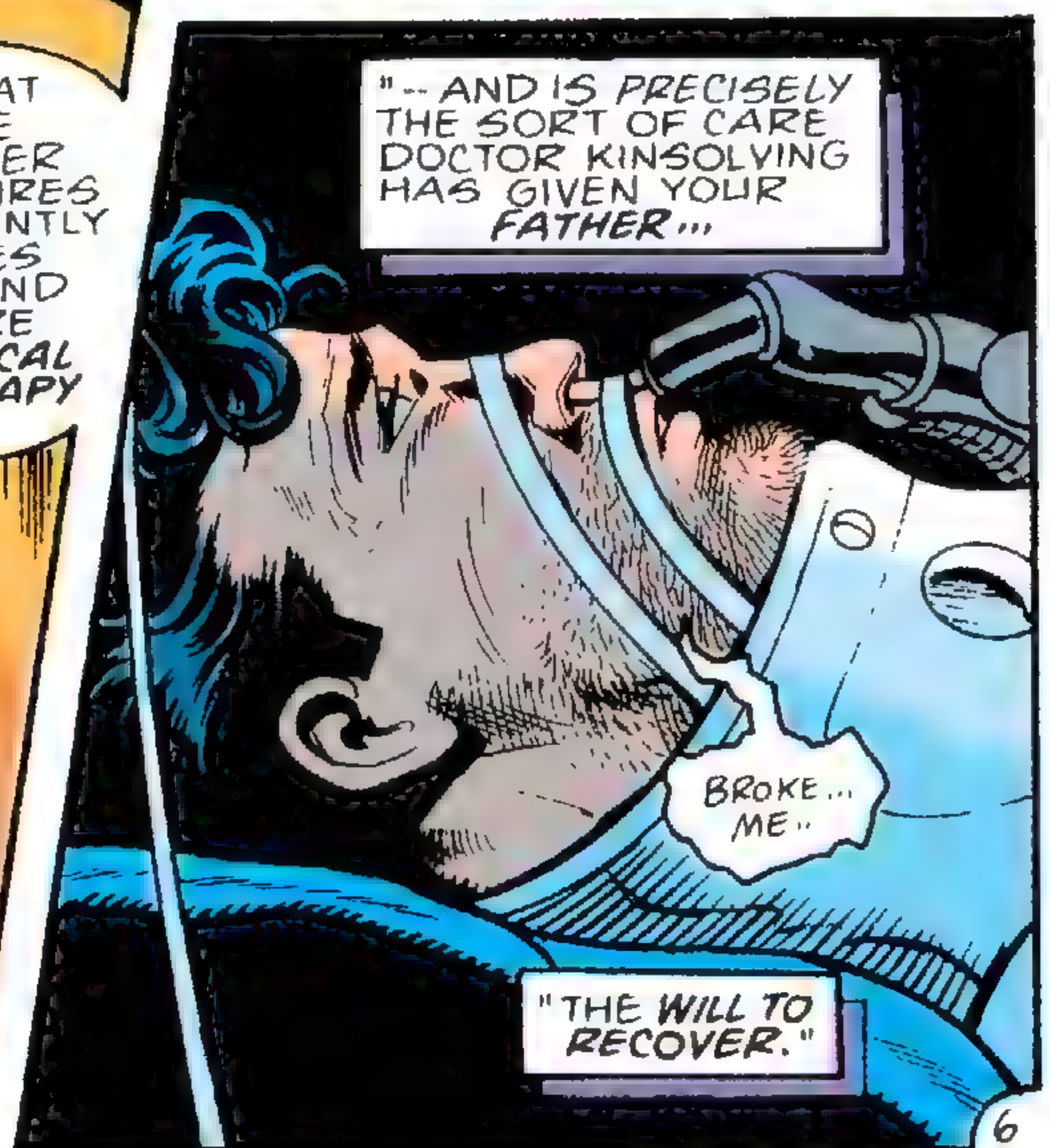
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, TIM.



WHAT THE MASTER REQUIRES EVIDENTLY GOES BEYOND MERE PHYSICAL THERAPY --

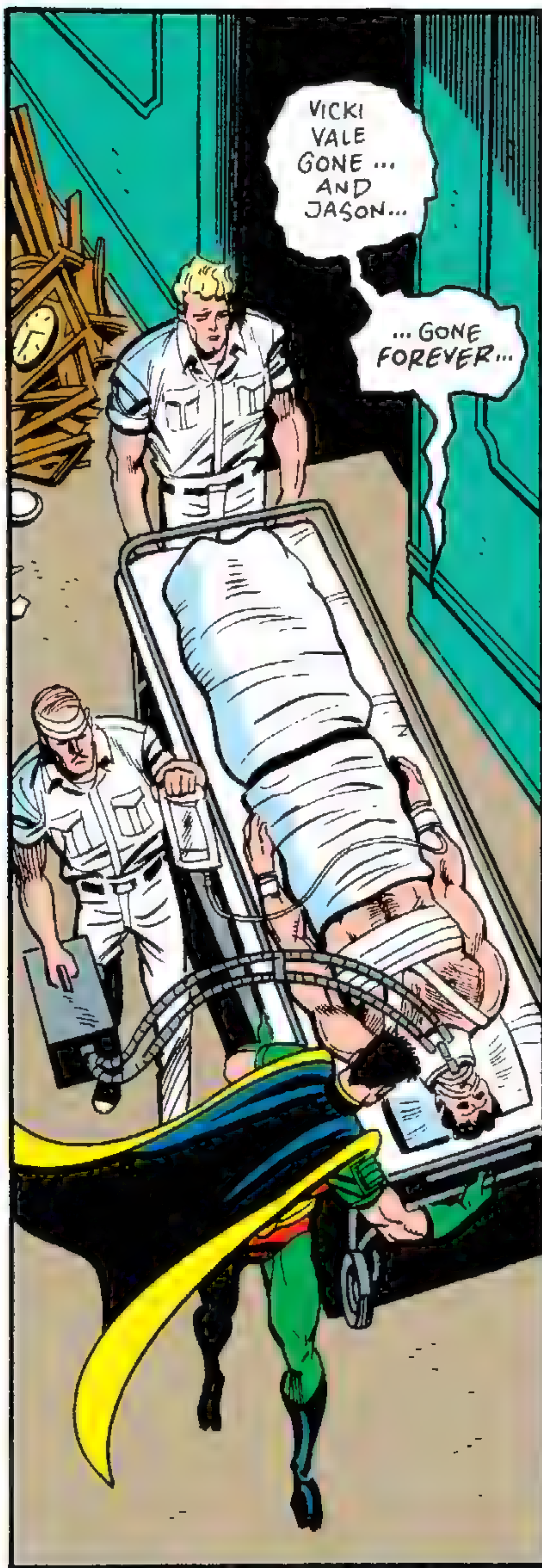


"... AND IS PRECISELY THE SORT OF CARE DOCTOR KINSOLVING HAS GIVEN YOUR FATHER..."



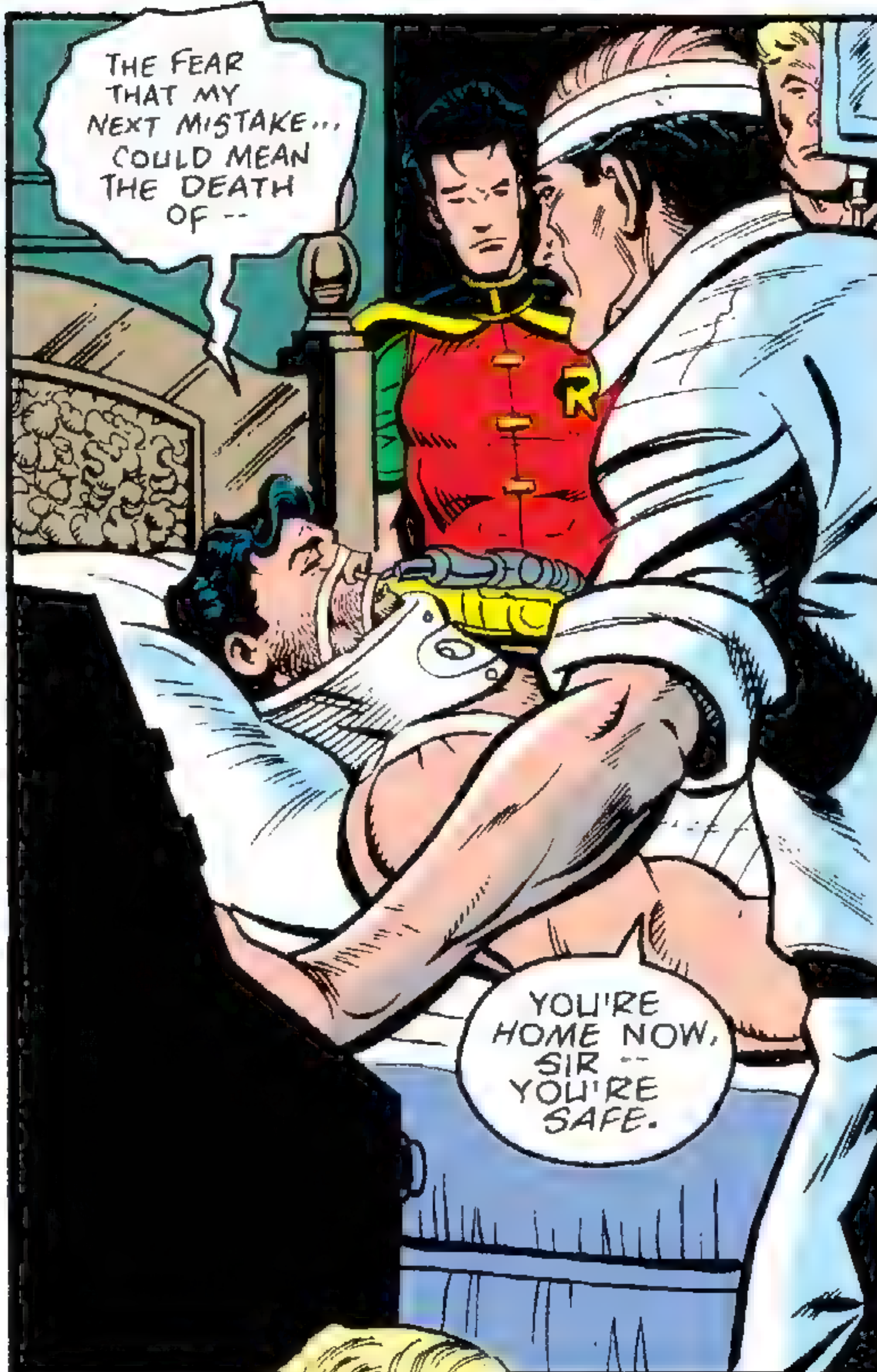
BROKE... ME"

"THE WILL TO RECOVER."



VICKI
VALE
GONE ...
AND
JASON...

... GONE
FOREVER...



THE FEAR
THAT MY
NEXT MISTAKE...
COULD MEAN
THE DEATH
OF --

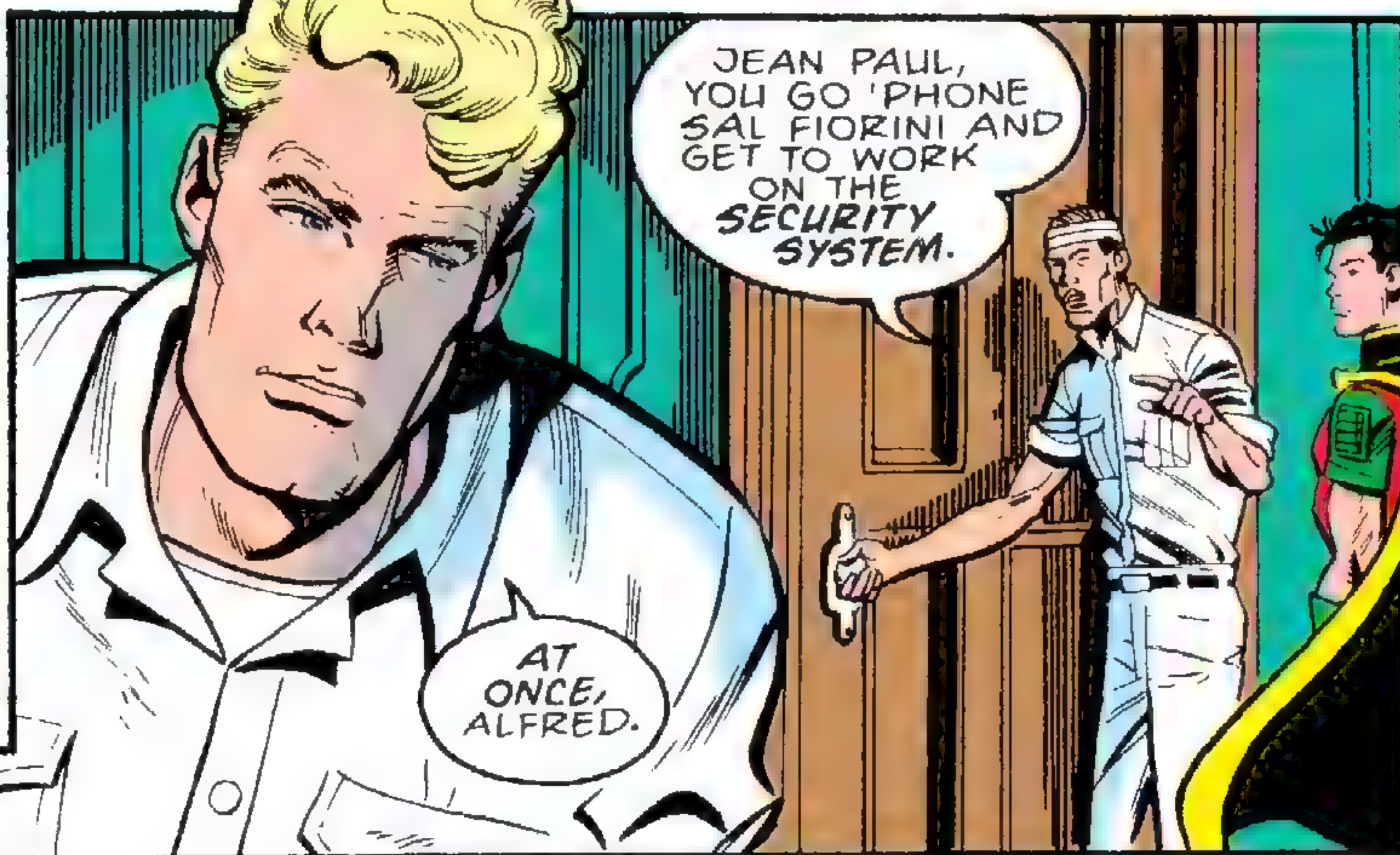
YOU'RE
HOME NOW,
SIR --
YOU'RE
SAFE.



IS
THERE
ANYTHING
YOU --

NO ...
JUST TURN
OUT THE
LIGHTS
AND
LEAVE
ME ...

... IN
THE
DARK.



JEAN PAUL,
YOU GO 'PHONE
SAL FIORINI AND
GET TO WORK
ON THE
SECURITY
SYSTEM.

AT
ONCE,
ALFRED.

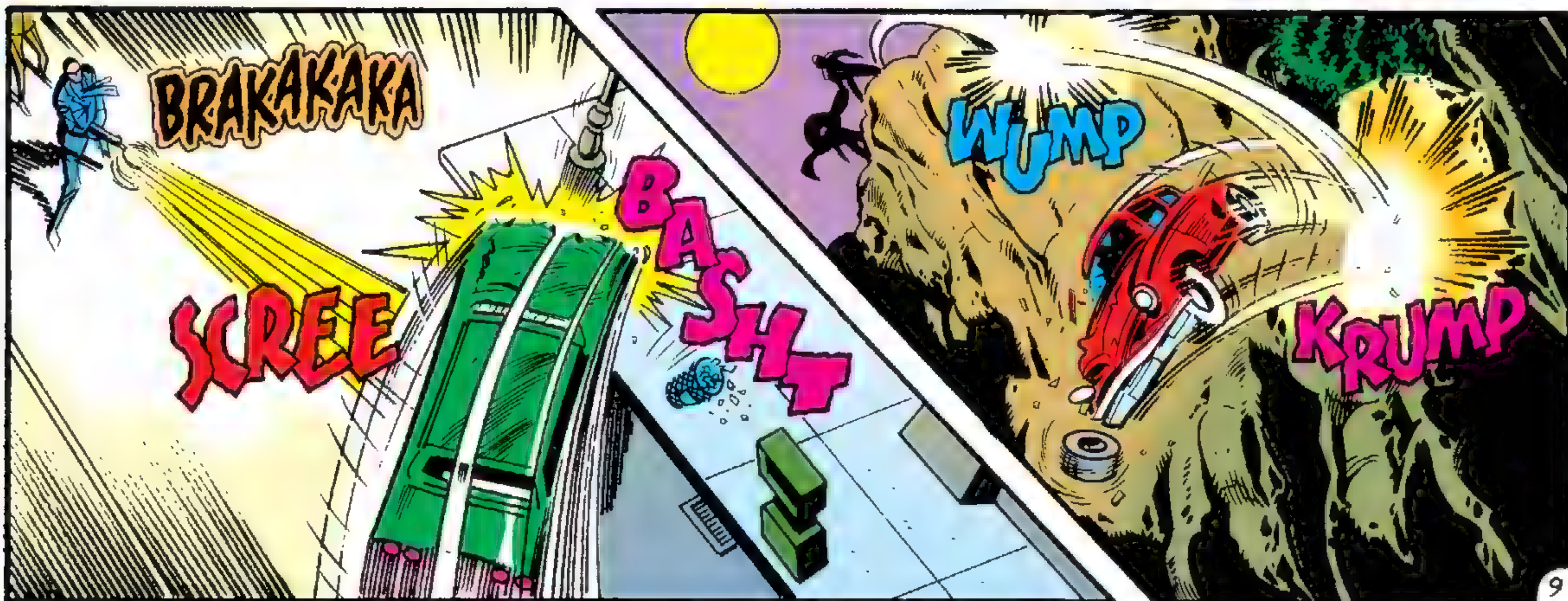
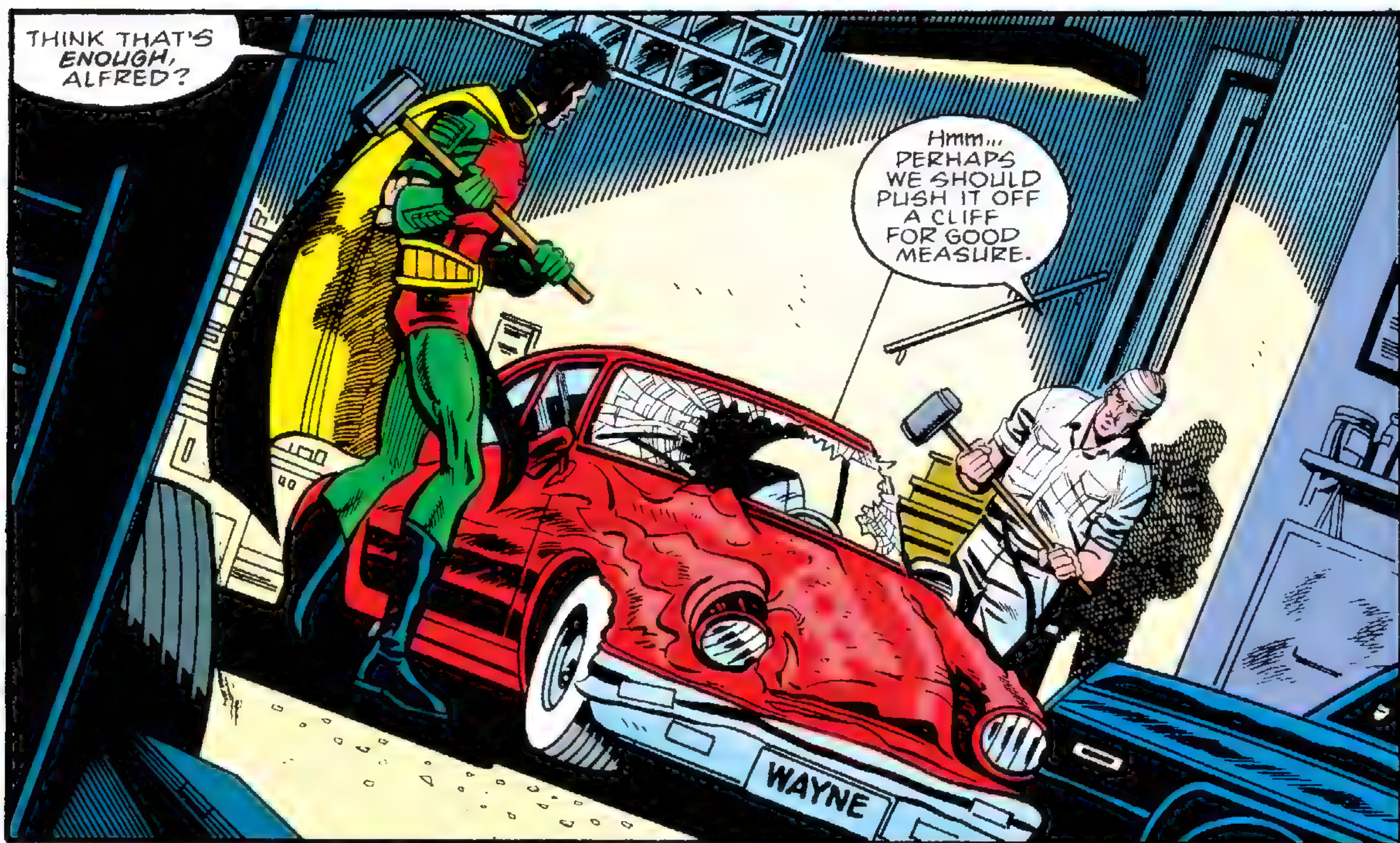
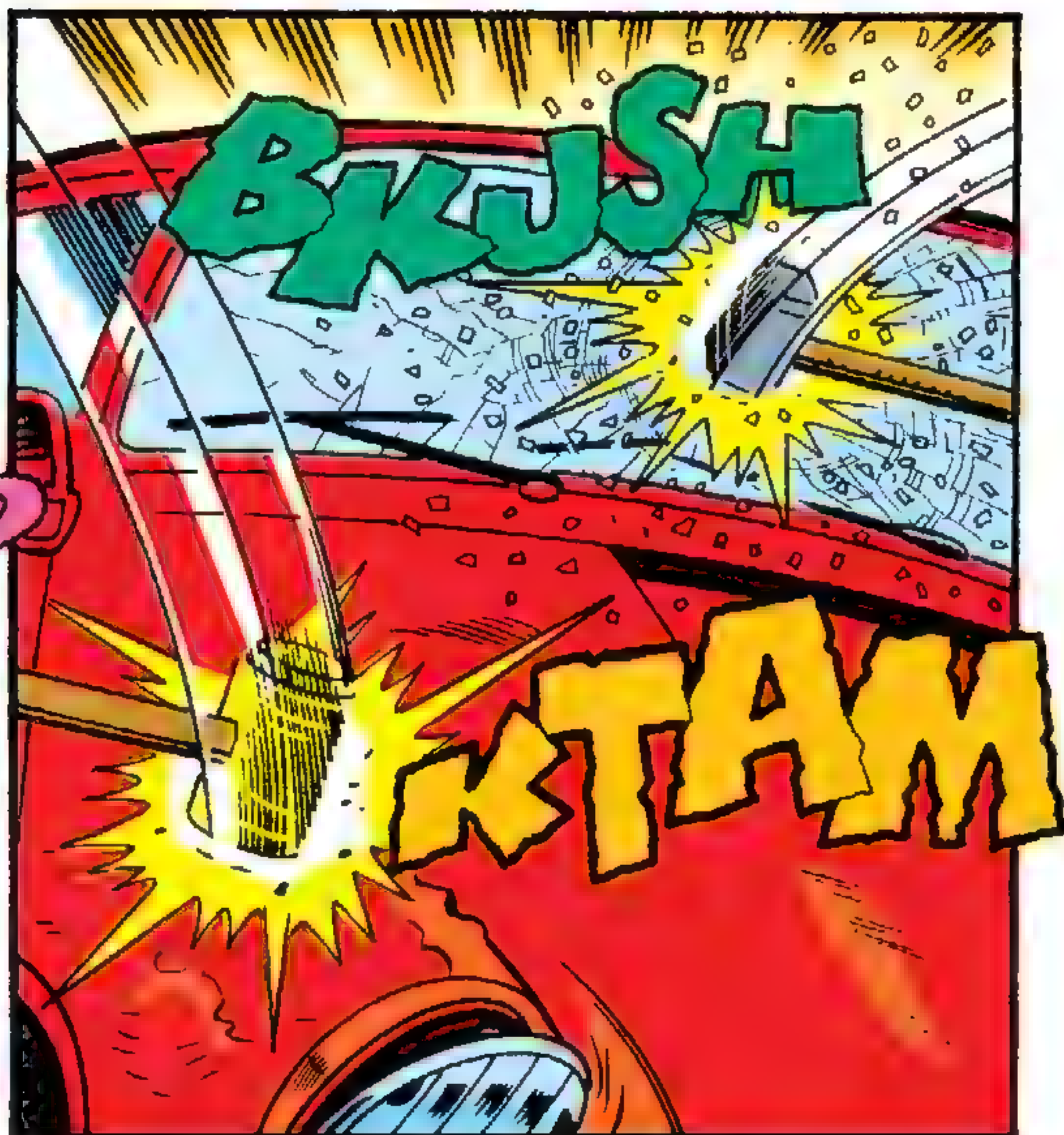


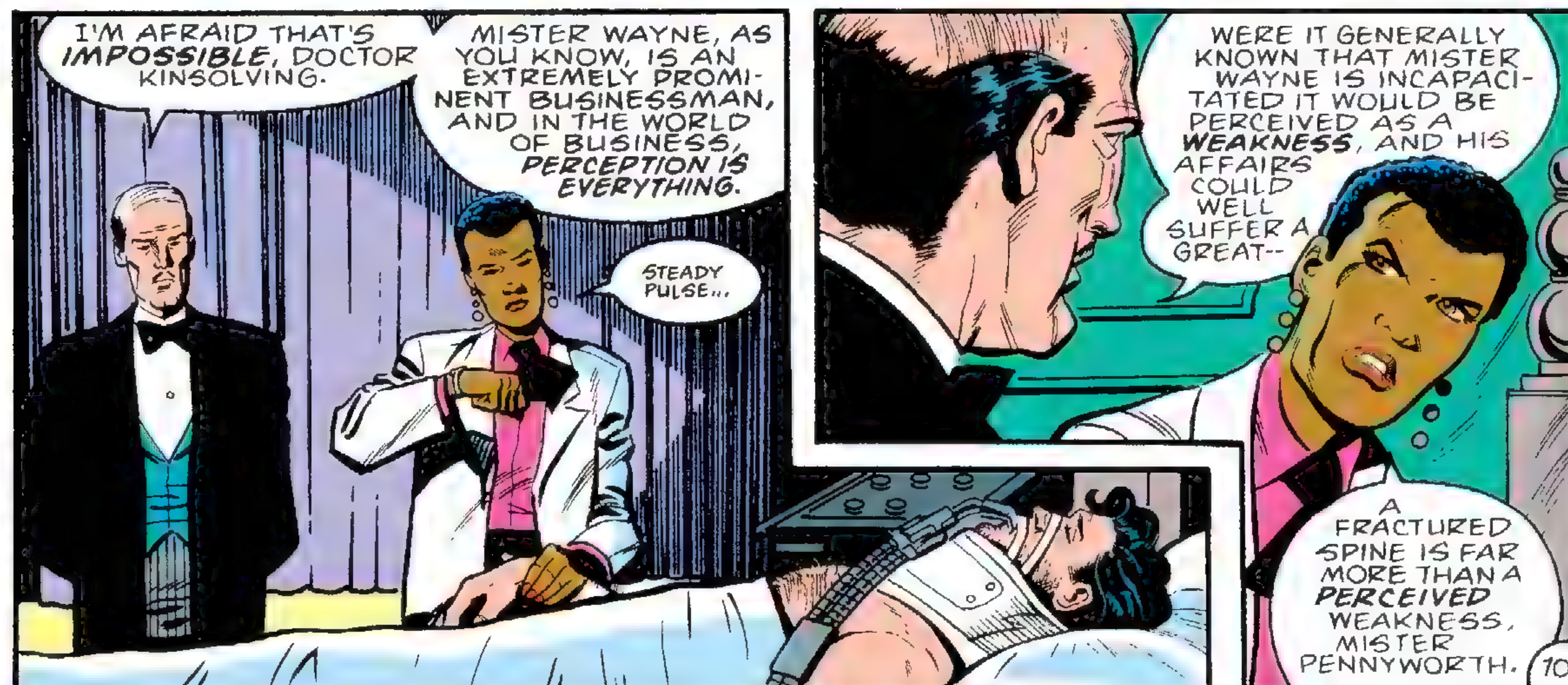
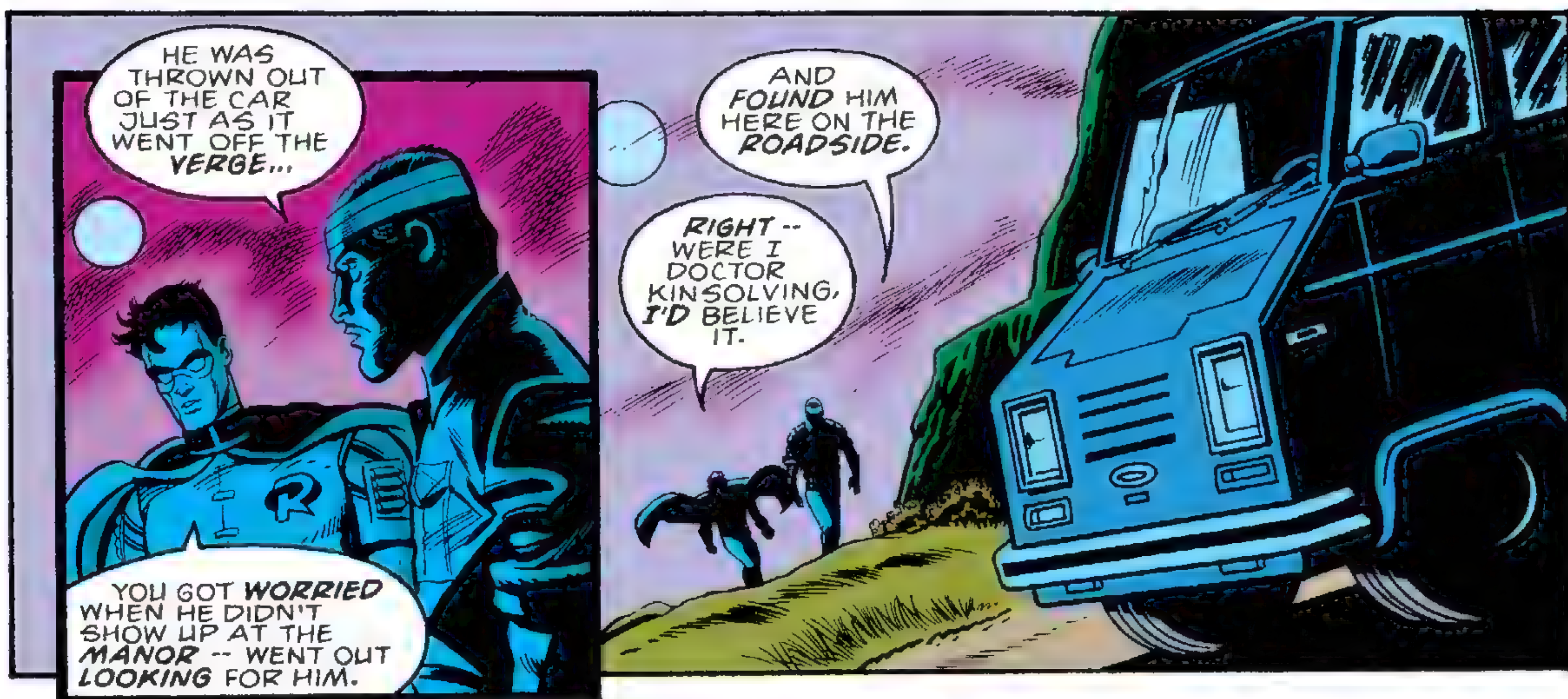
TIM, BEFORE WE GO
FETCH DOCTOR KINSOLVING,
WE'LL NEED A COVER
STORY... SOME SORT OF
ACCIDENT LOGICALLY
INVOLVING BRUCE
WAY --

A
CAR WRECK--
HE TOTALED
THE PORSCHE.



GOOD
LAD --
THERE ARE
SLEDGE
HAMMERS
IN THE
SHED.

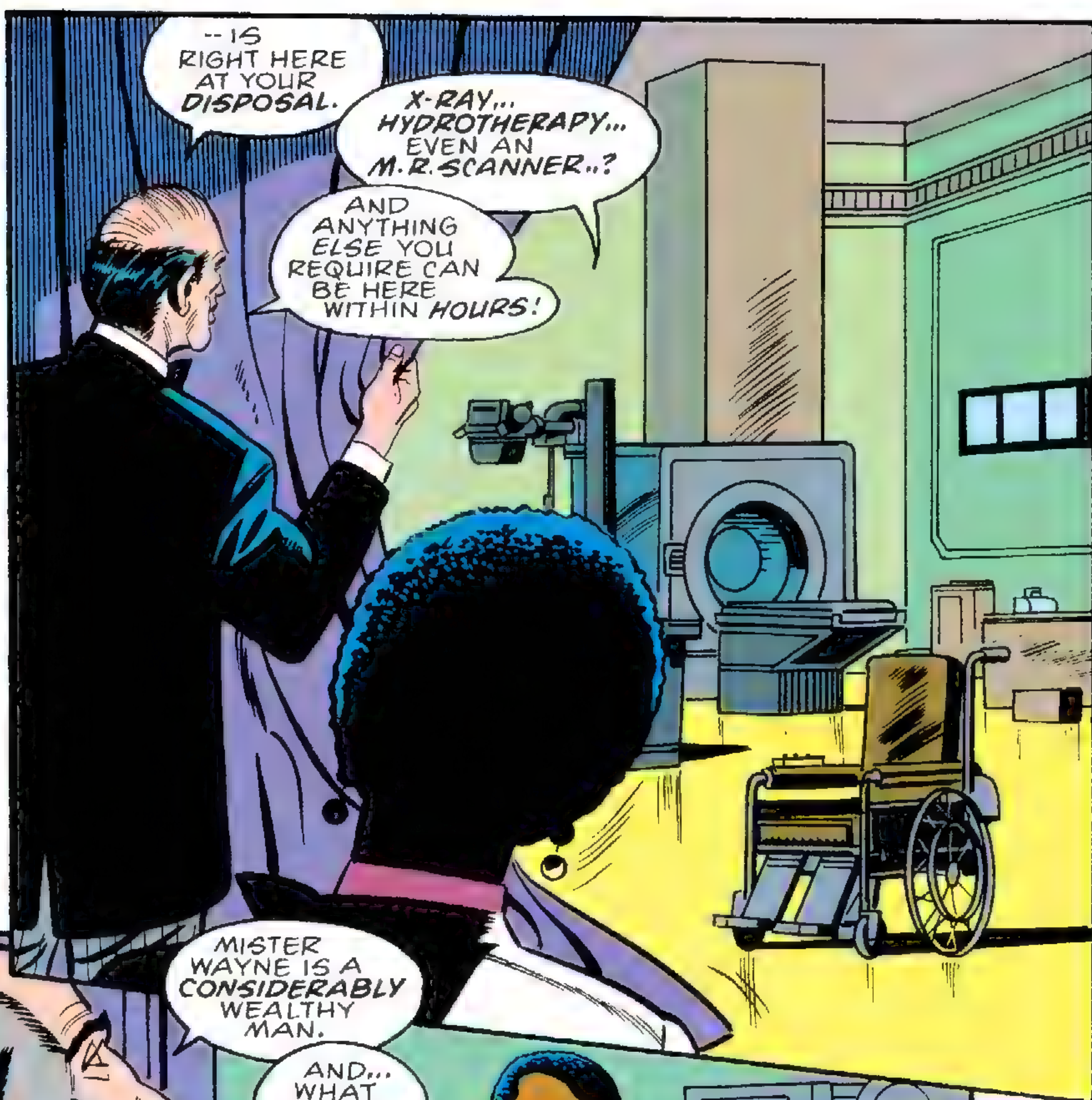






THIS MAN IS IN
VERY SERIOUS
CONDITION,
AND WITHOUT
PROPER
HOSPITAL
FACILITIES,
IT IS **MISTER**
WAYNE
WHO WILL
SUFFER A
GREAT
DEAL!

ALL
THE EQUIP-
MENT YOU
SHALL
NEED,
DOCTOR
KIN-
SOLVING--



-- IS
RIGHT HERE
AT YOUR
DISPOSAL.

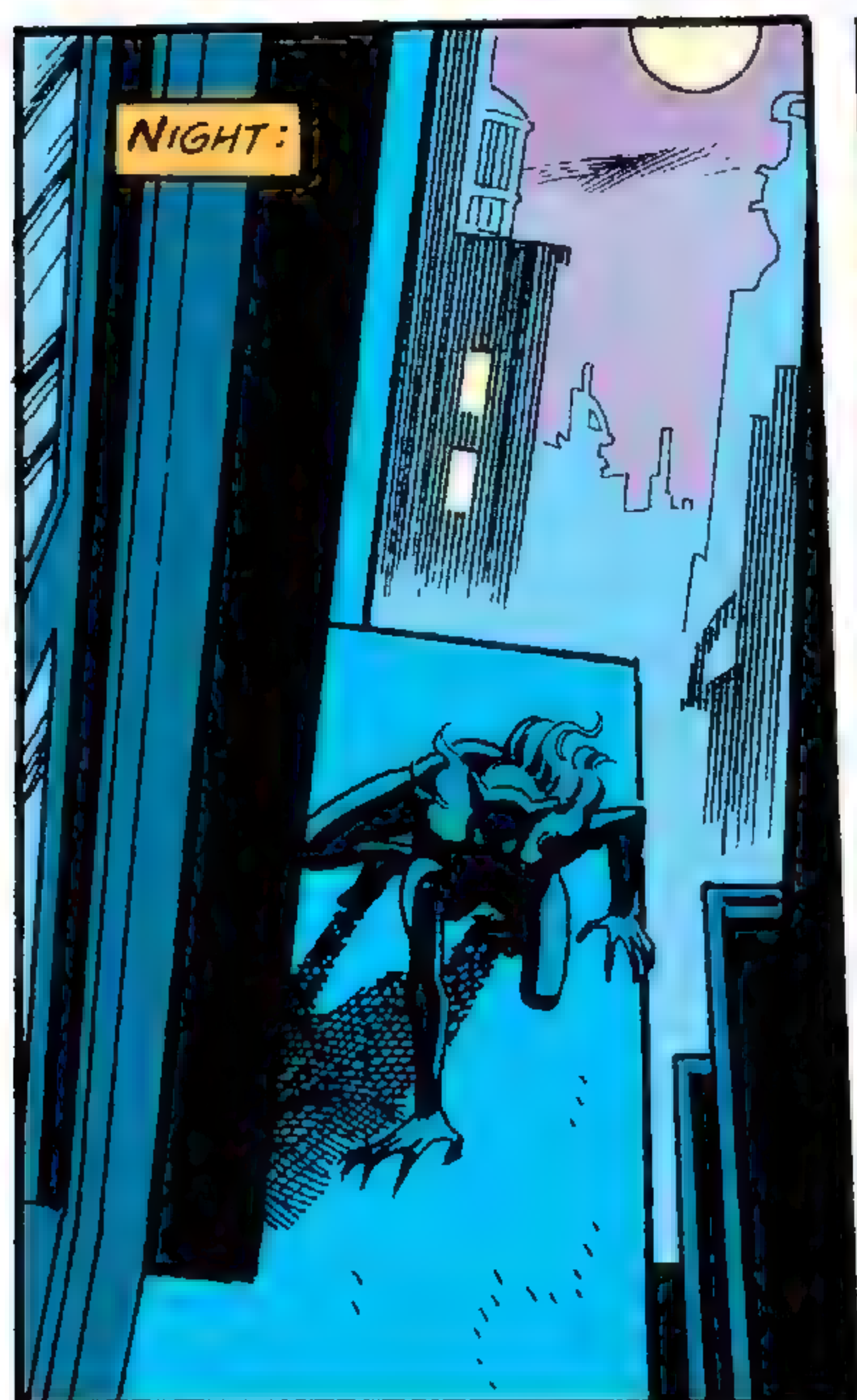
**X-RAY...
HYDROTHERAPY...
EVEN AN
M.R. SCANNER..?**

AND
ANYTHING
ELSE YOU
REQUIRE CAN
BE HERE
WITHIN **HOURS!**

MISTER
WAYNE IS A
CONSIDERABLY
WEALTHY
MAN.

AND...
WHAT
YOU'RE
ASKING--

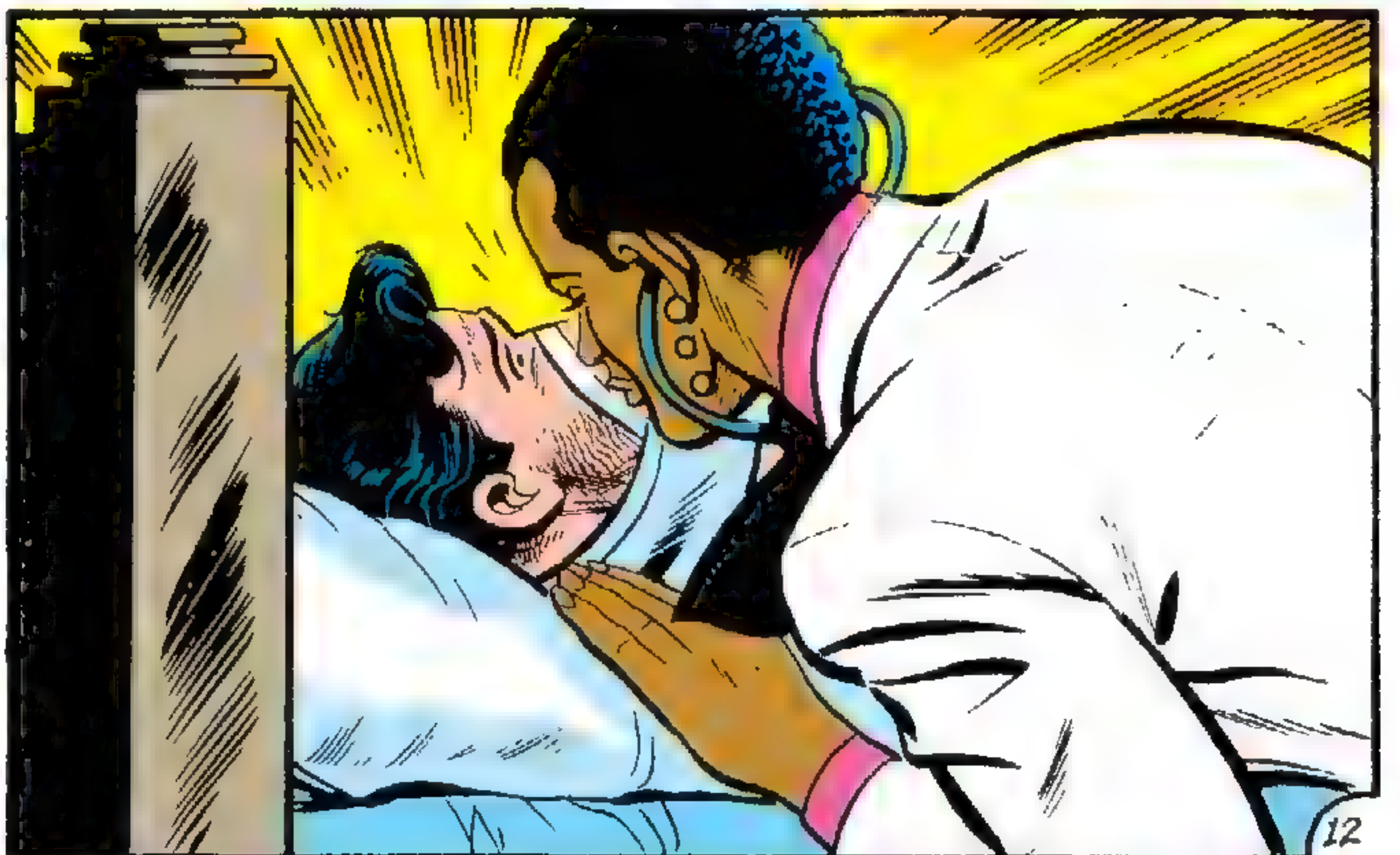
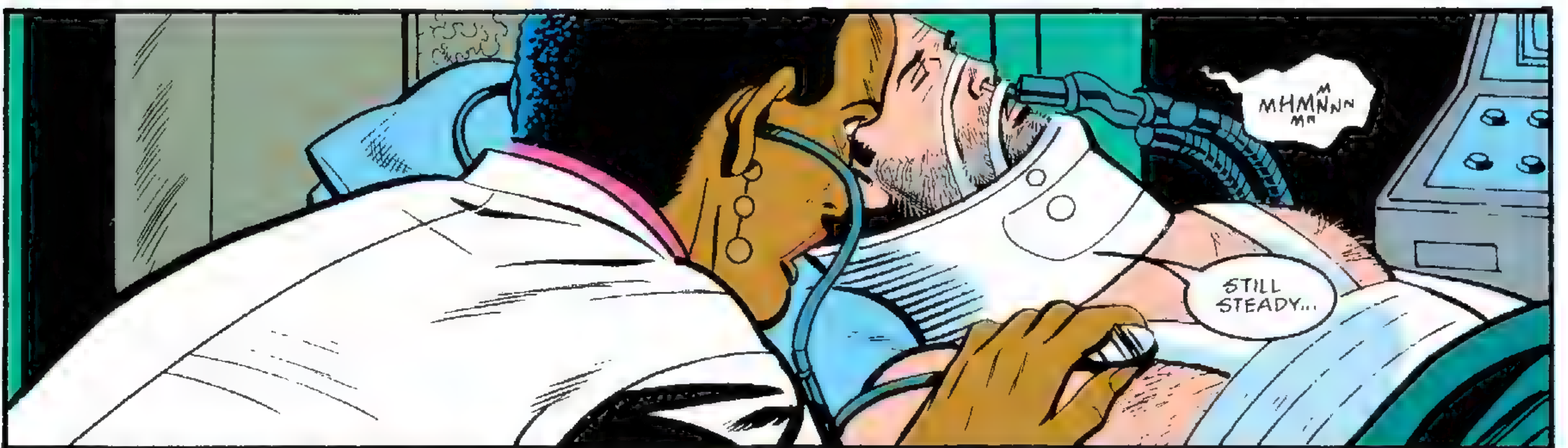
-- IS YOUR
SERVICE AS
A **PRIVATE DOCTOR,**
FOR AS LONG AS
HIS REHABILITATION
DEMANDS.

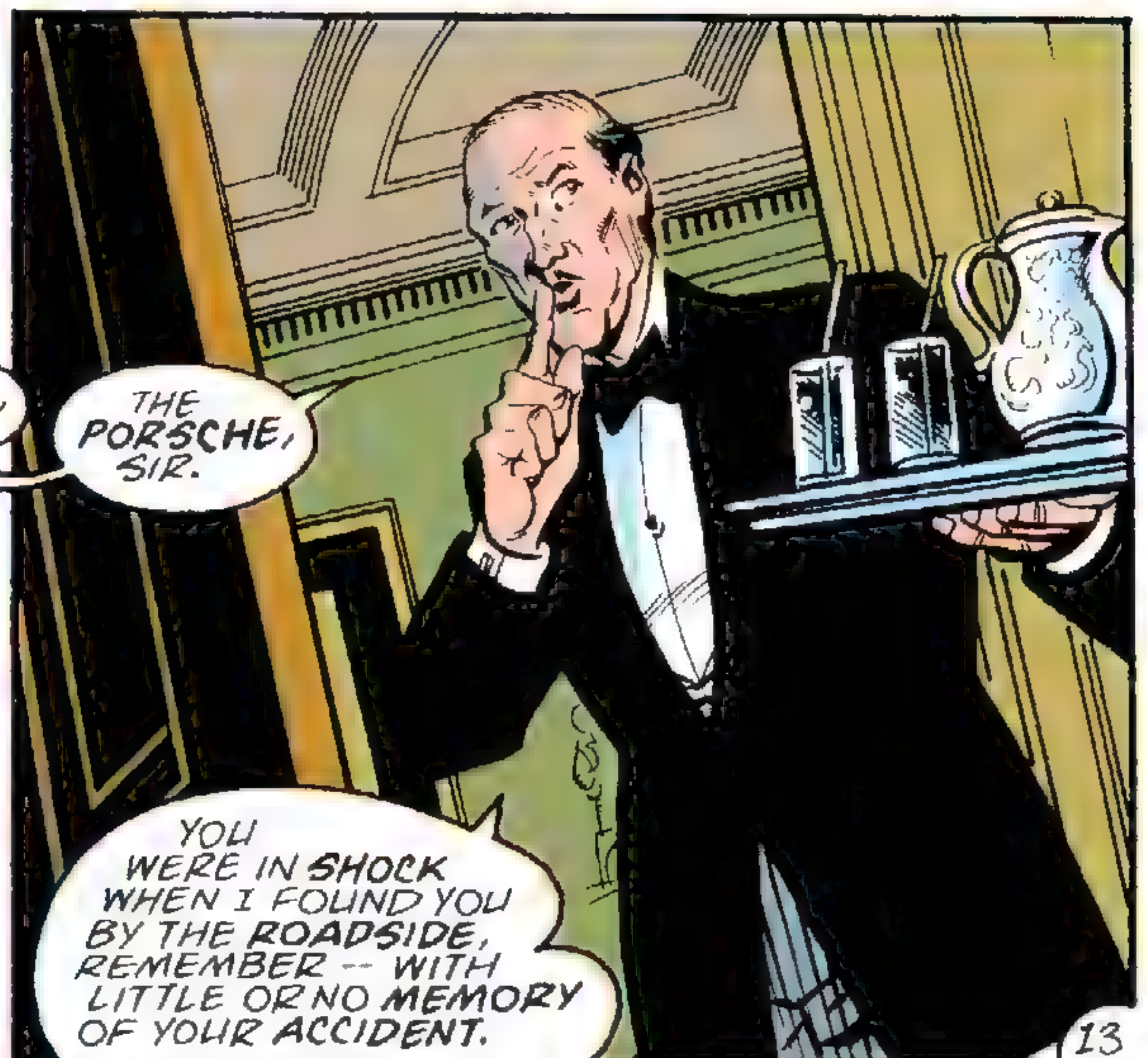


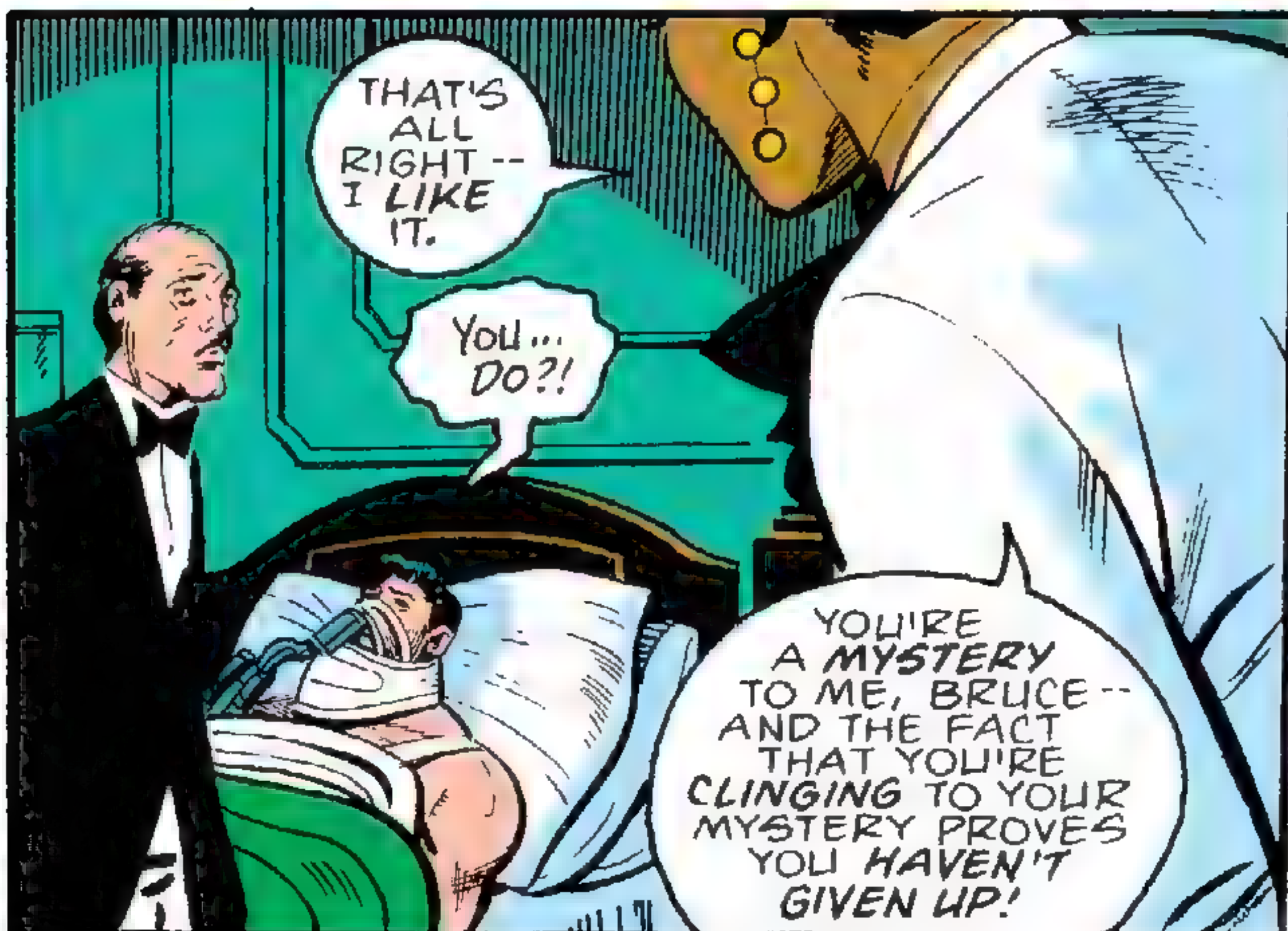
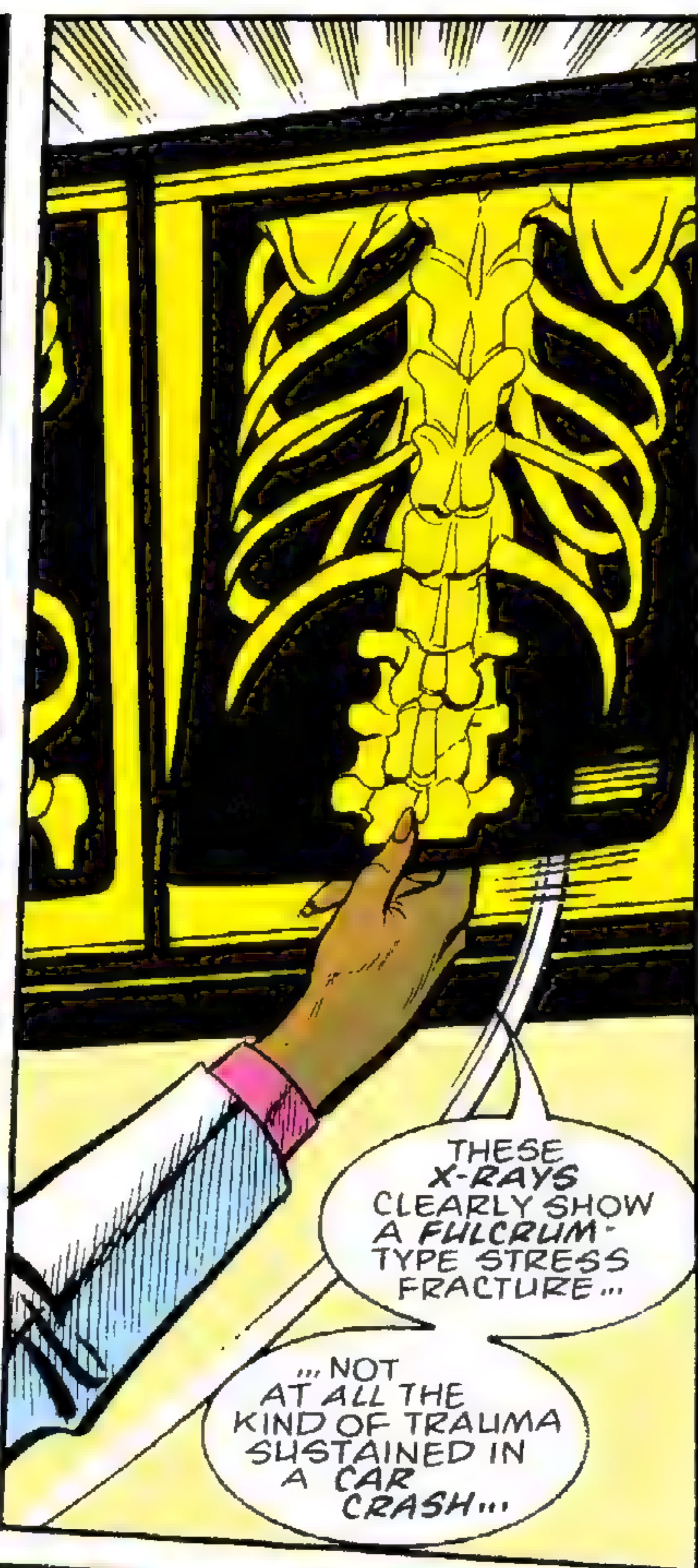
NIGHT:

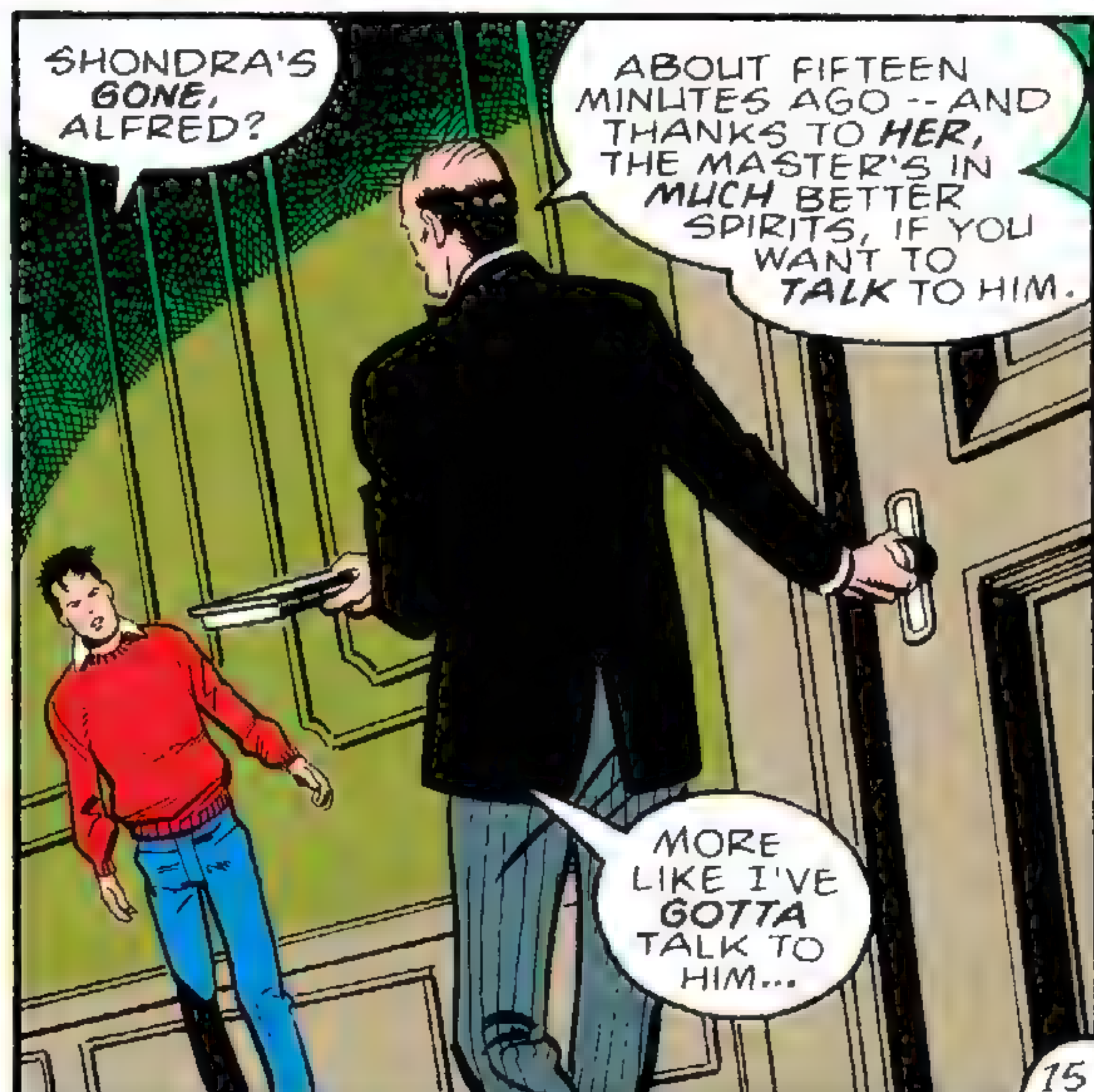
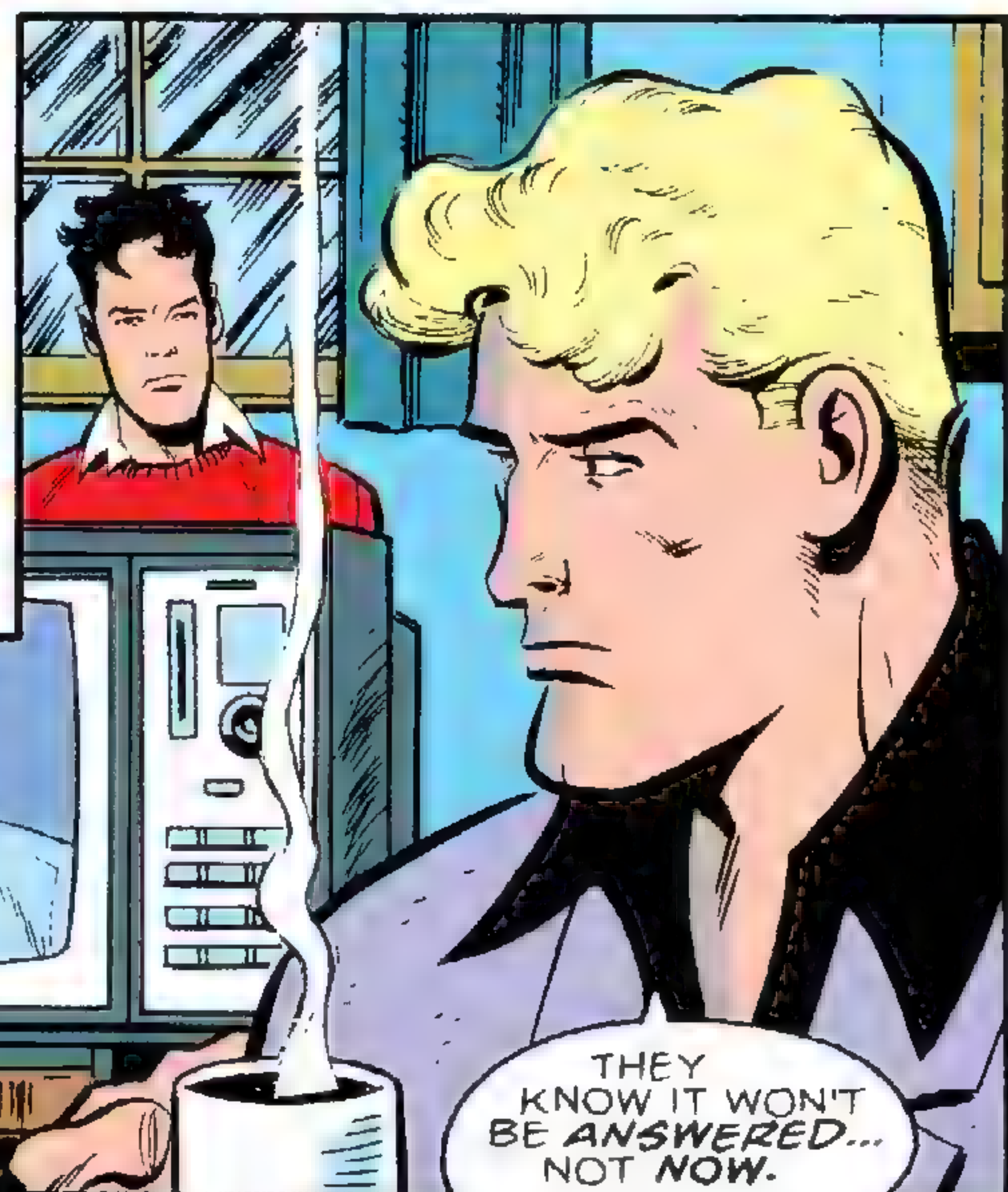
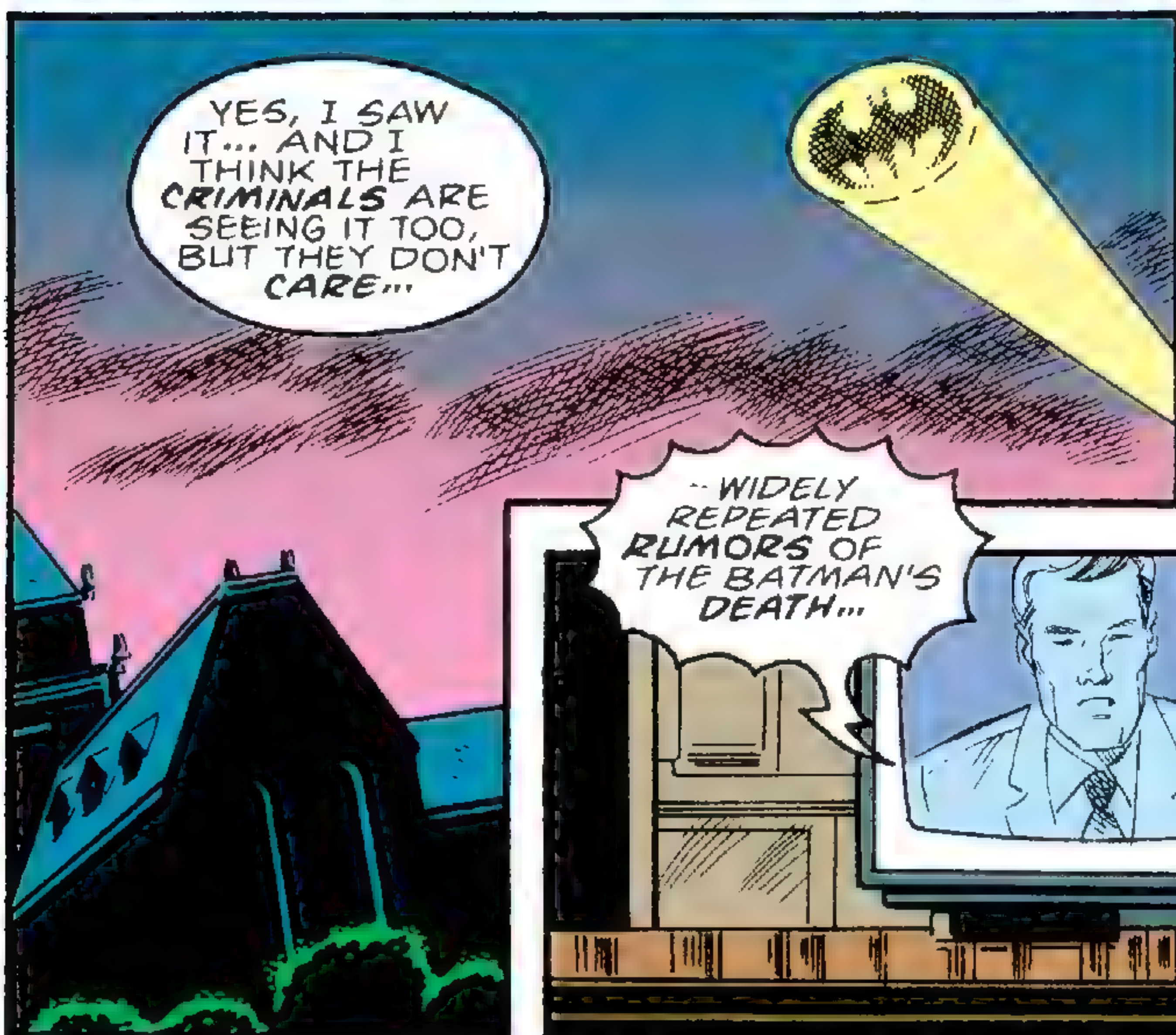
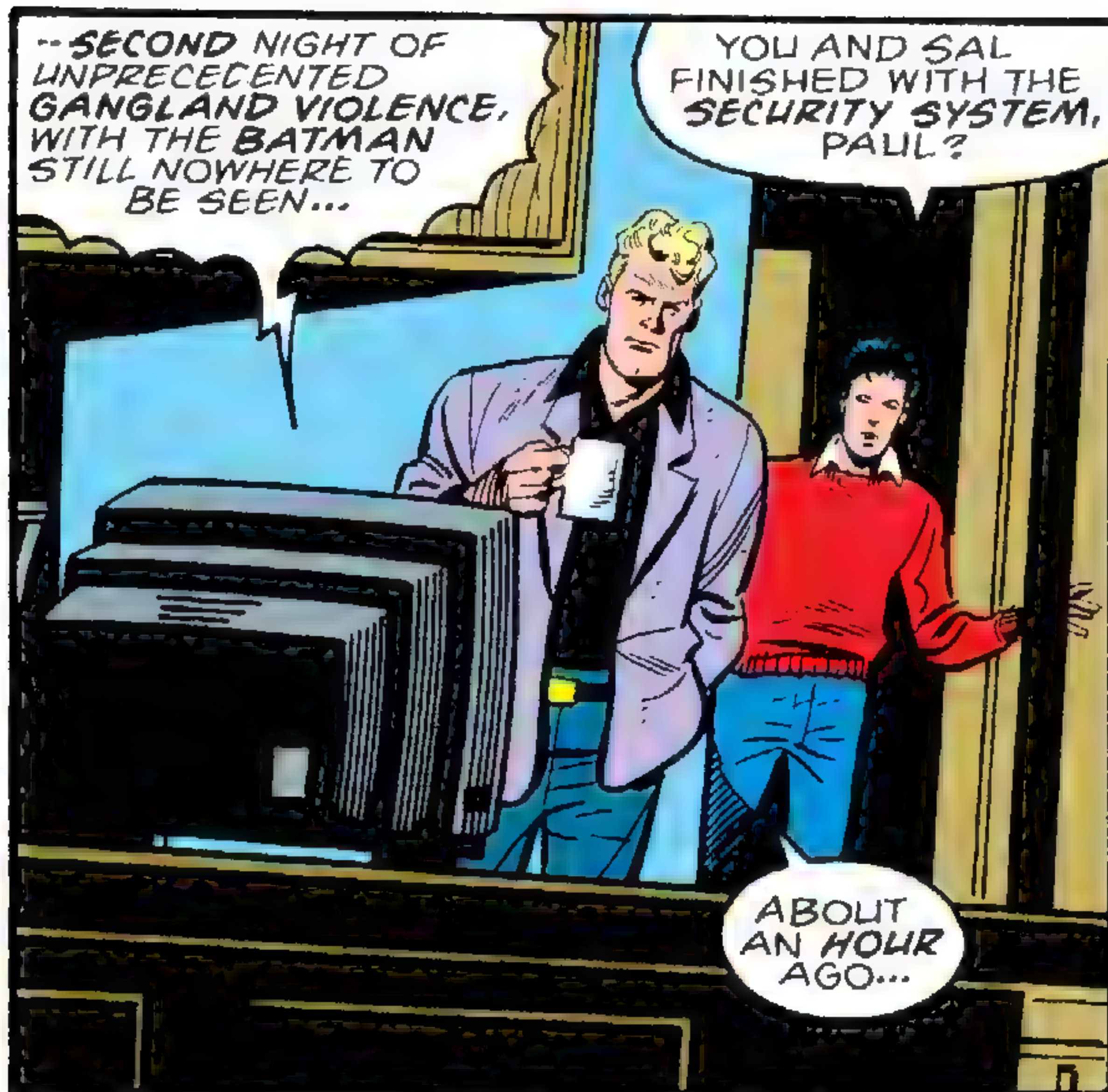


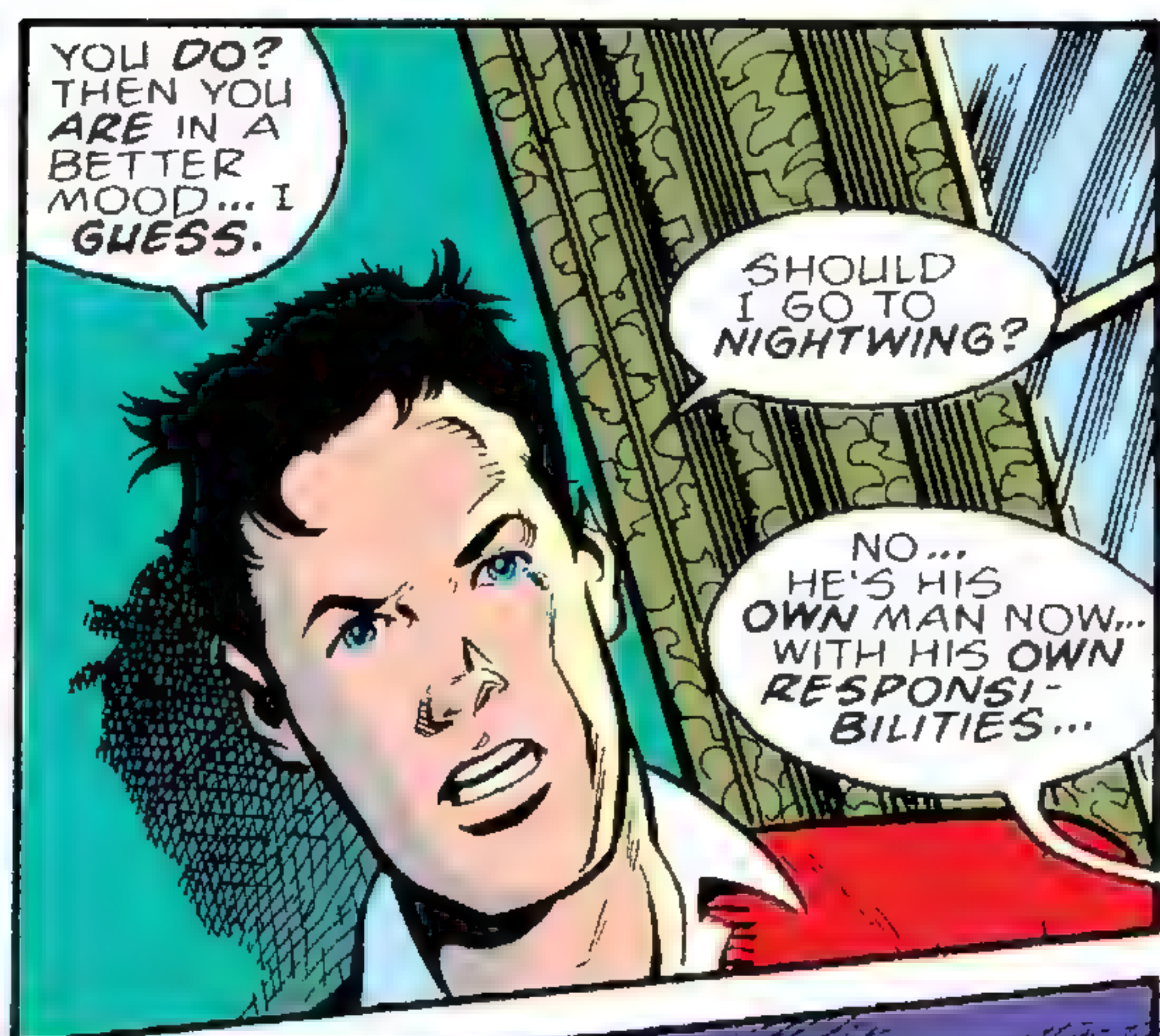
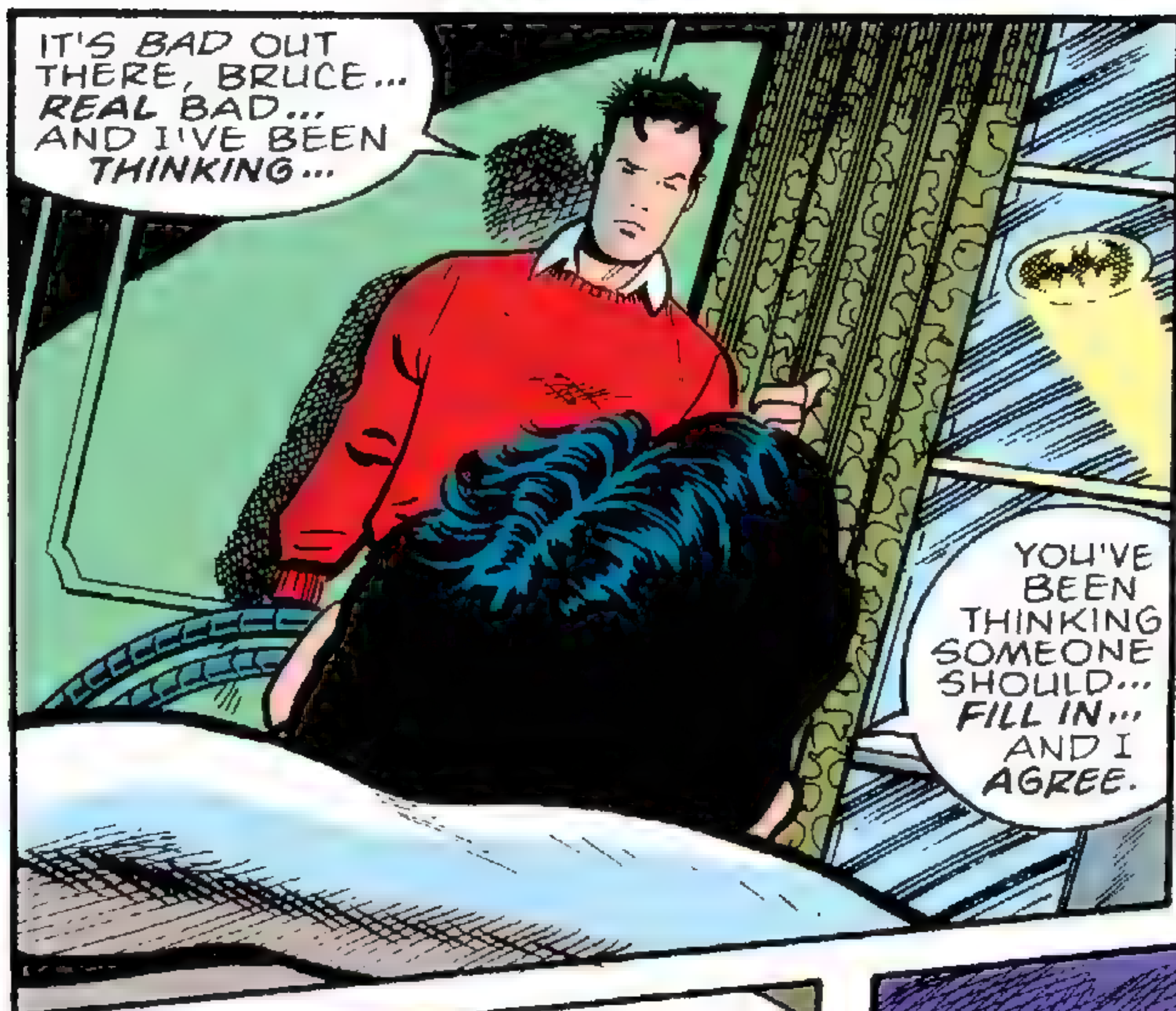
DON'T
WASTE YOUR
TIME, CAT-
LADY...

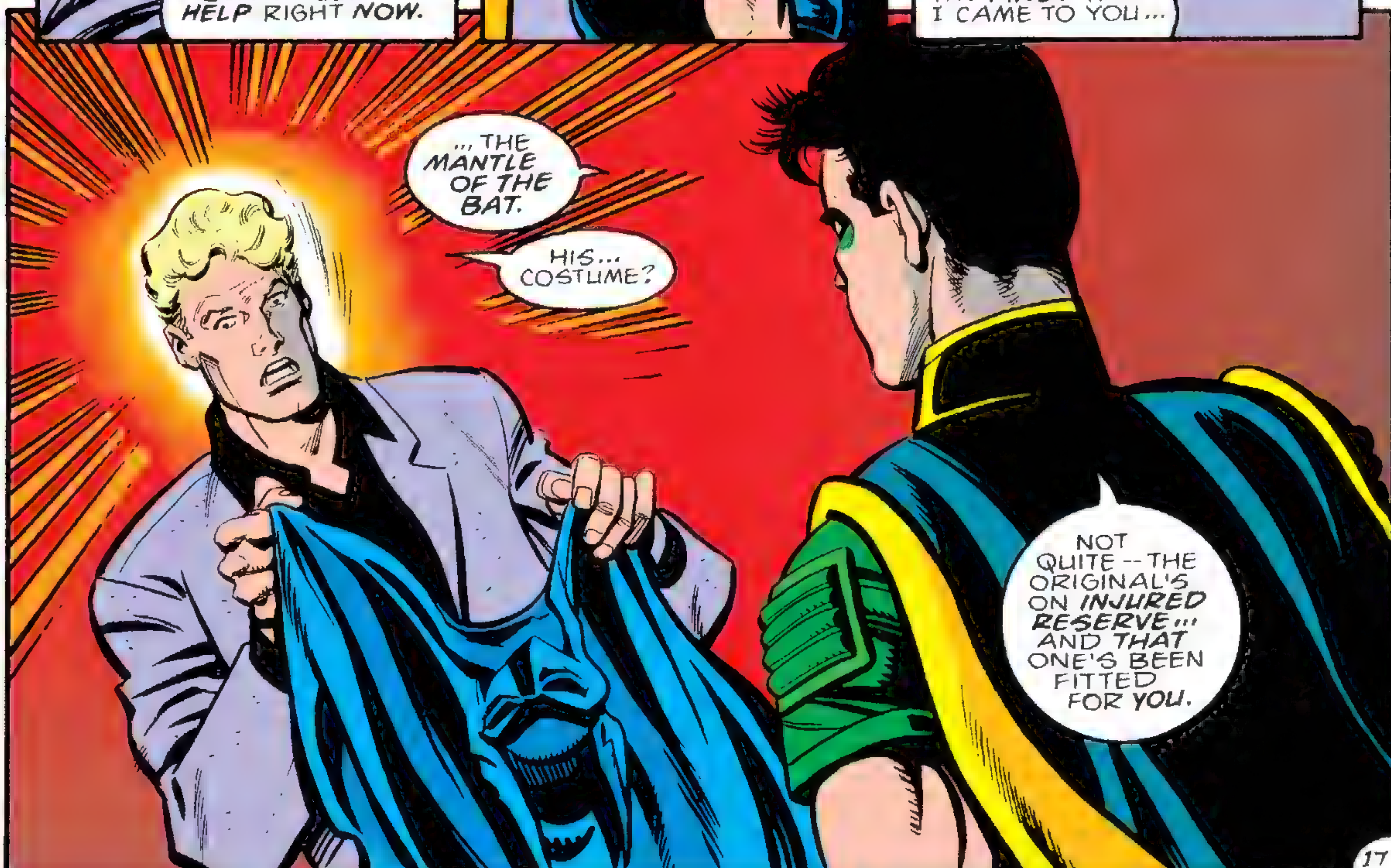
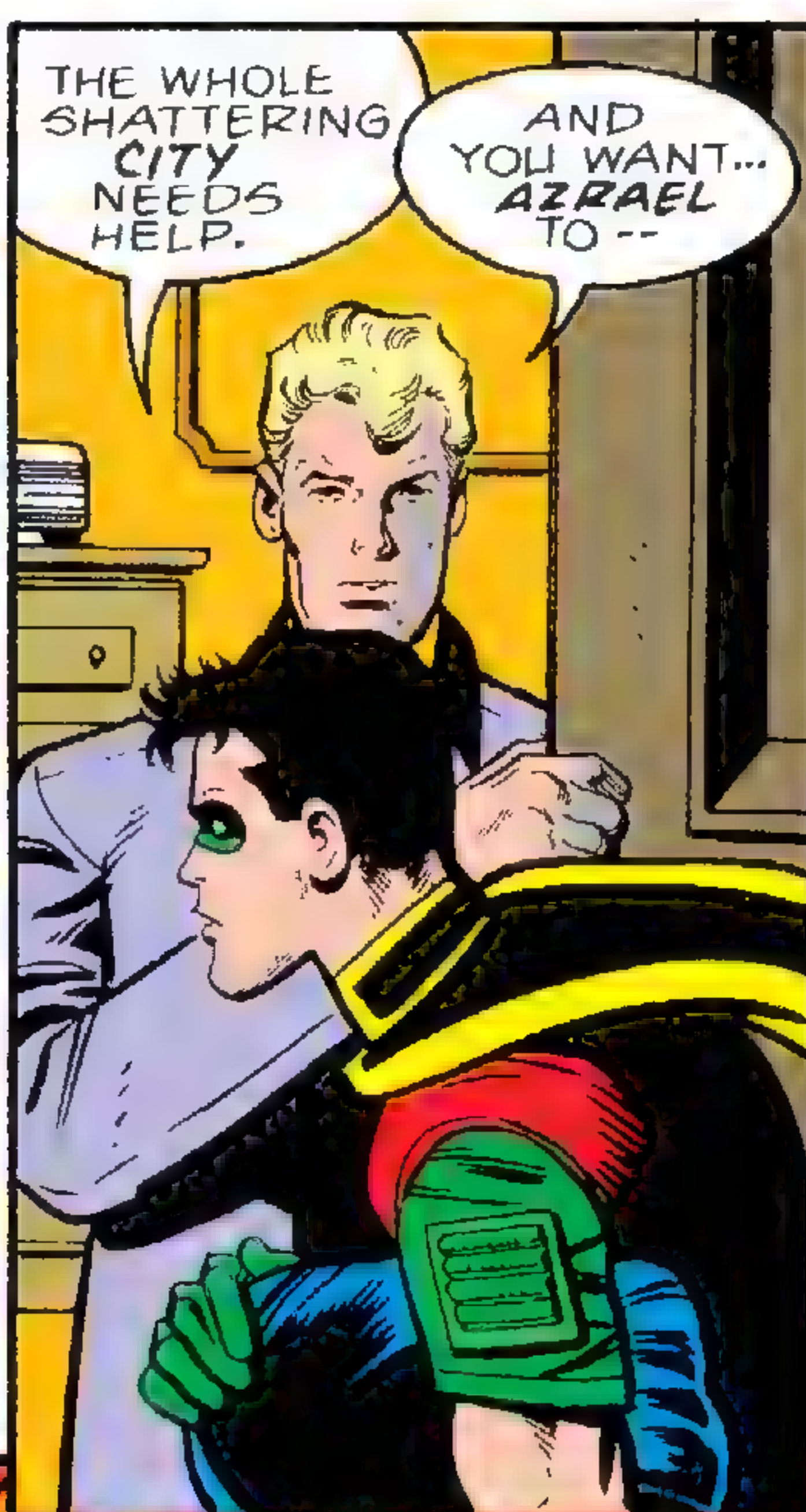


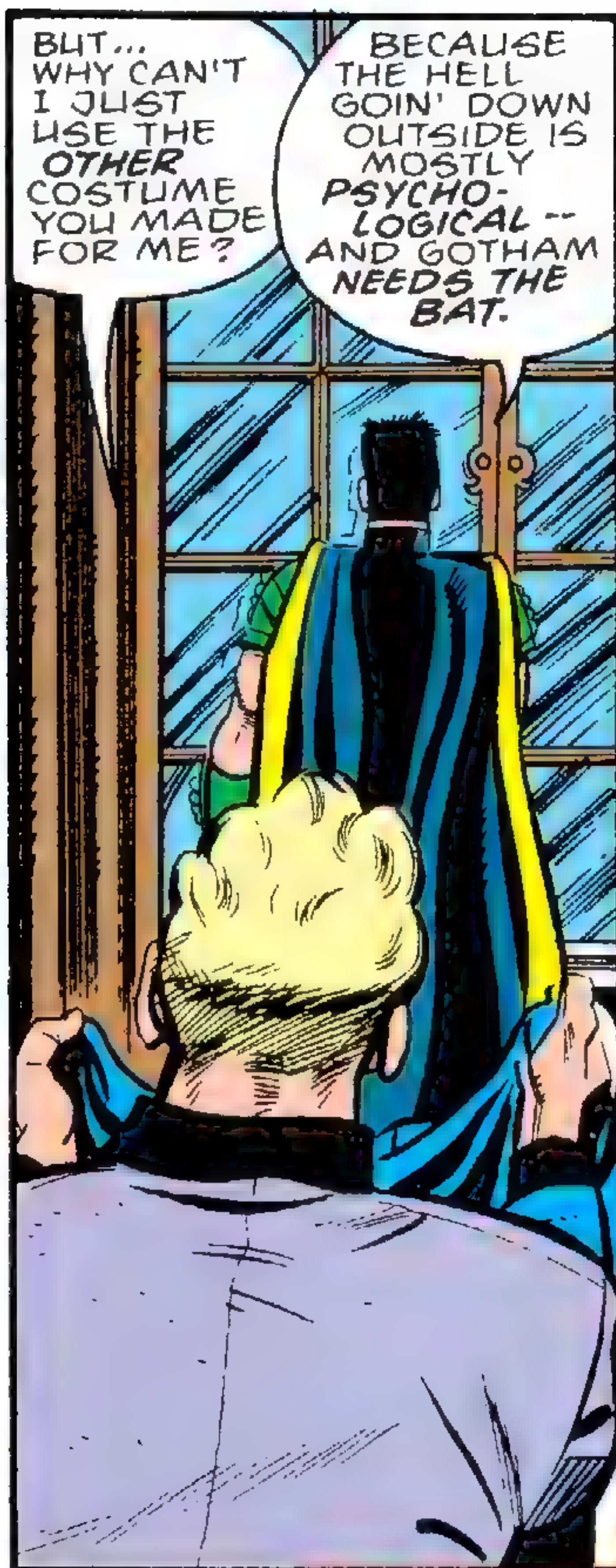




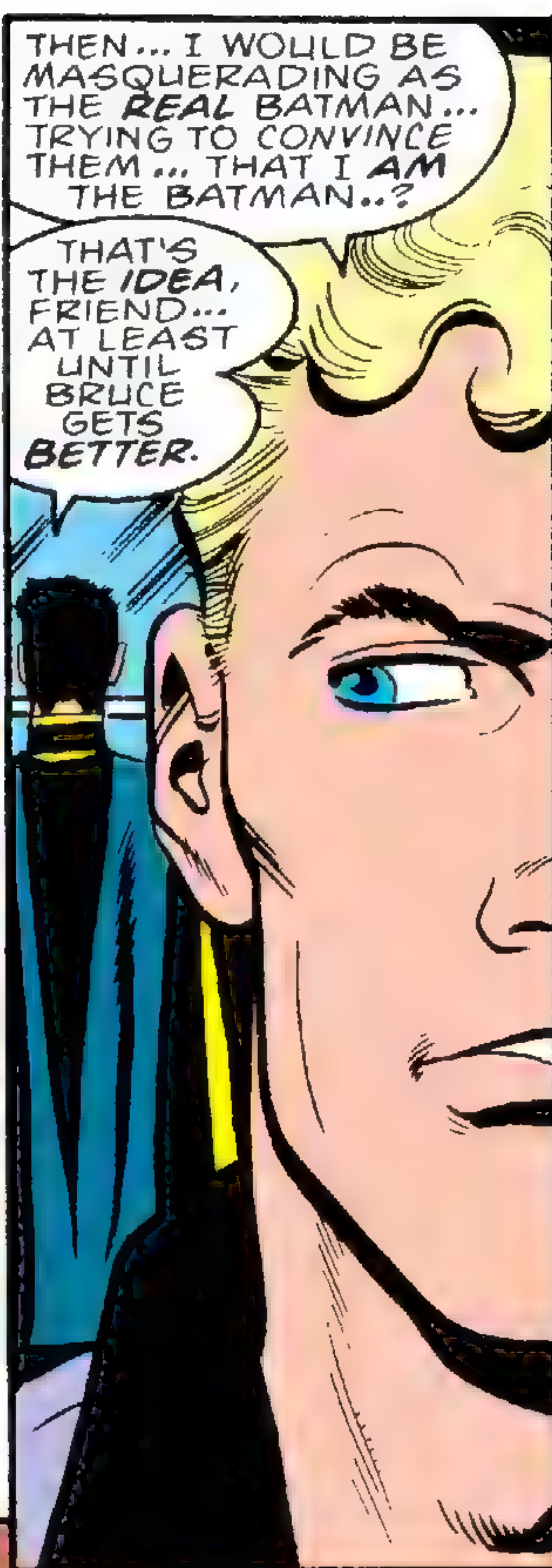




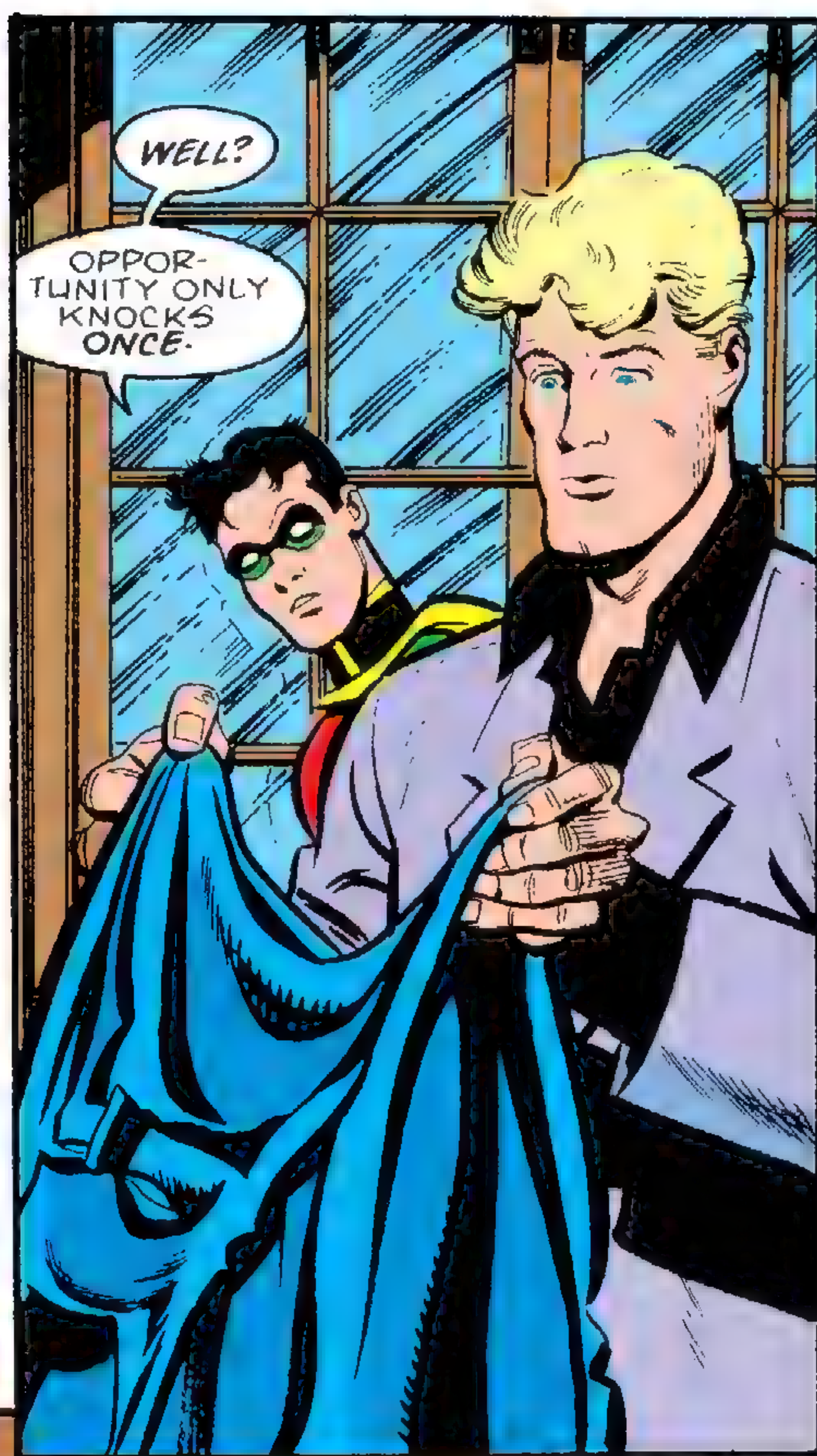




BECAUSE THE HELL GOIN' DOWN OUTSIDE IS MOSTLY **PSYCHO-LOGICAL** -- AND GOTHAM NEEDS THE **BAT**.



THAT'S THE **IDEA**, FRIEND... AT LEAST UNTIL **BRUCE** GETS **BETTER**.



WELL?

OPPOR-TUNITY ONLY KNOCKS ONCE.



YOU THINK I CAN DO IT?

WOULDN'T BE HERE OTHER-WISE.

I MEAN... YOU THINK I COULD BE... AS GOOD AS HIM?

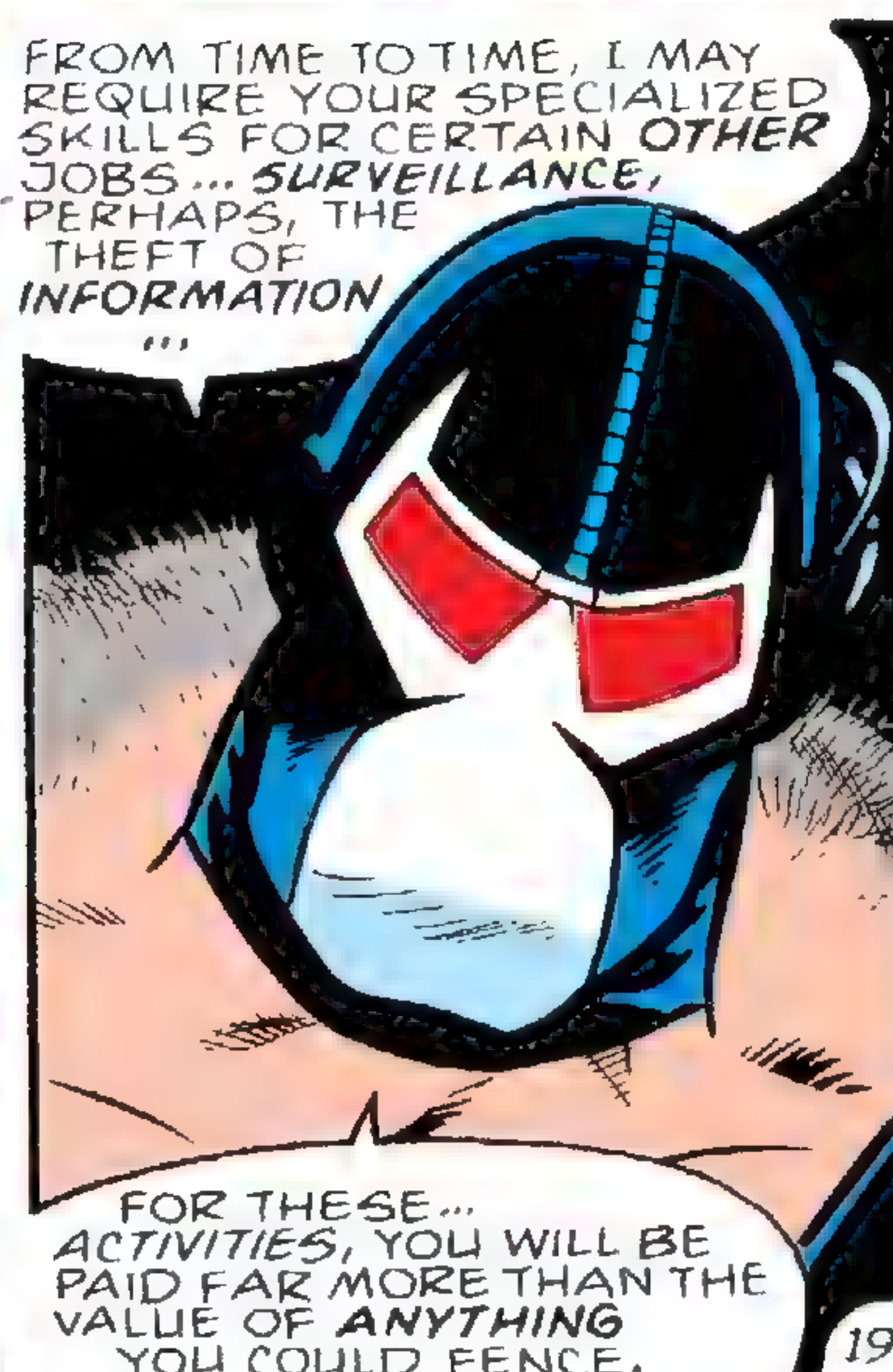
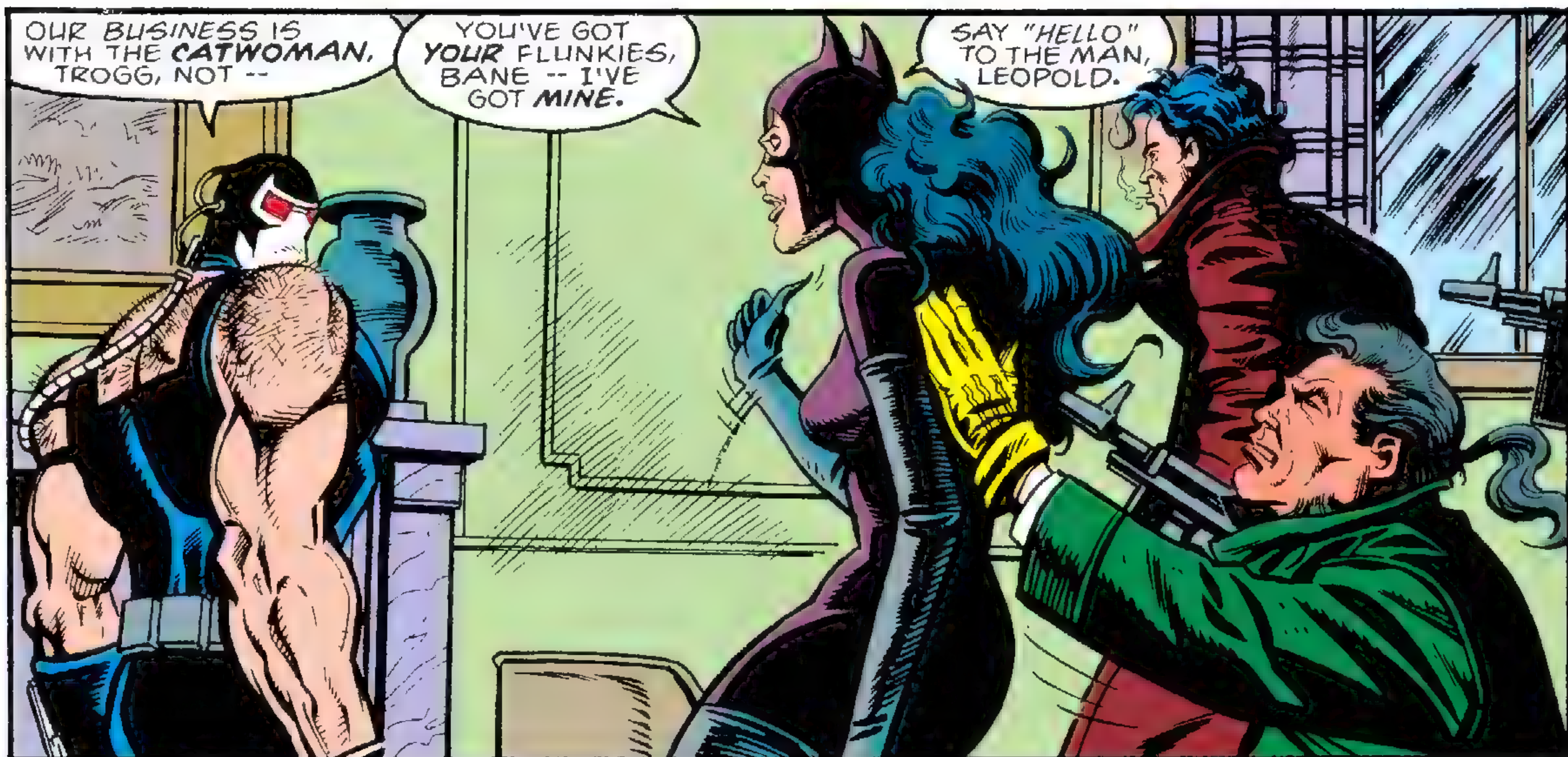
NO ONE'S AS GOOD AS HIM.

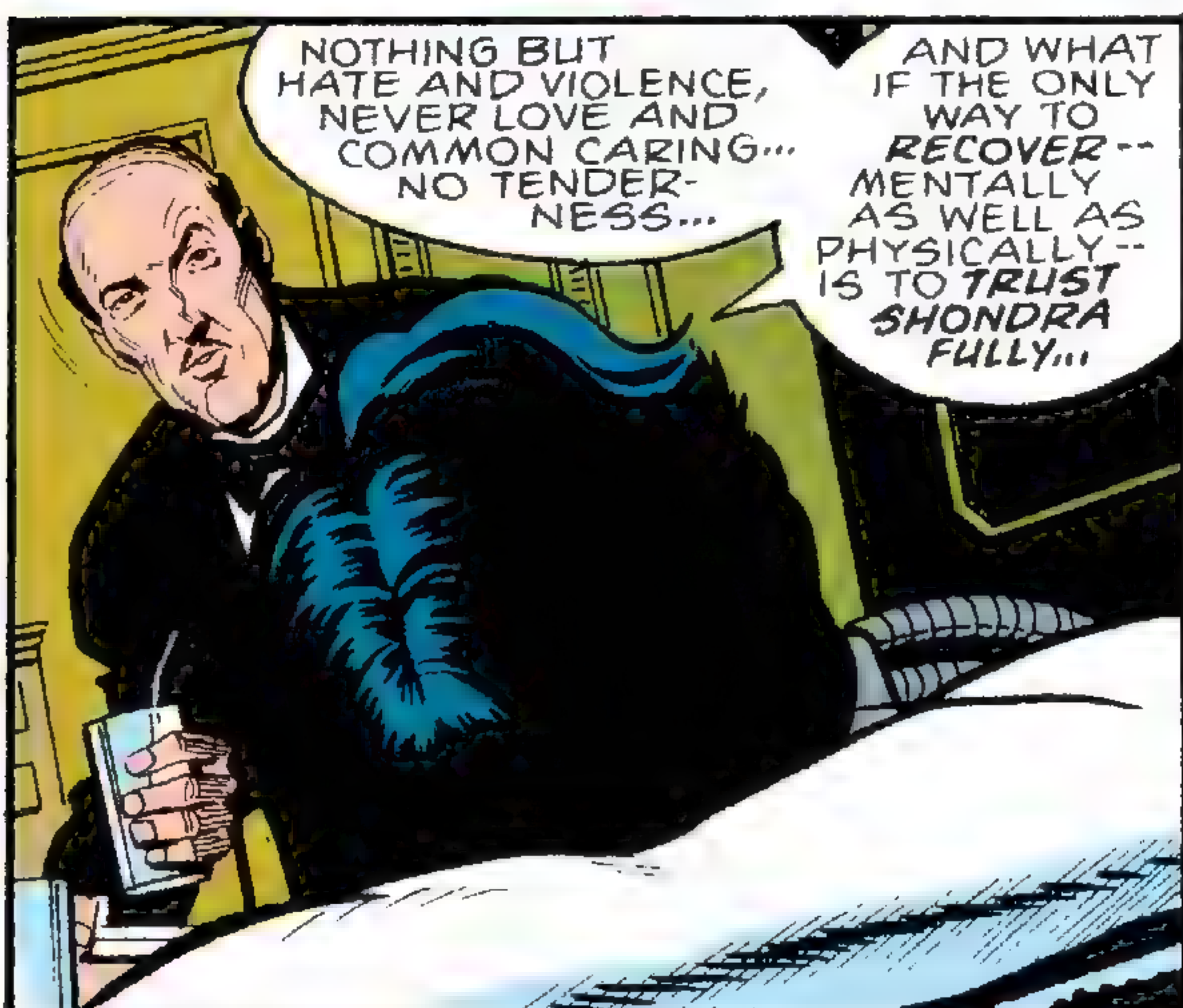
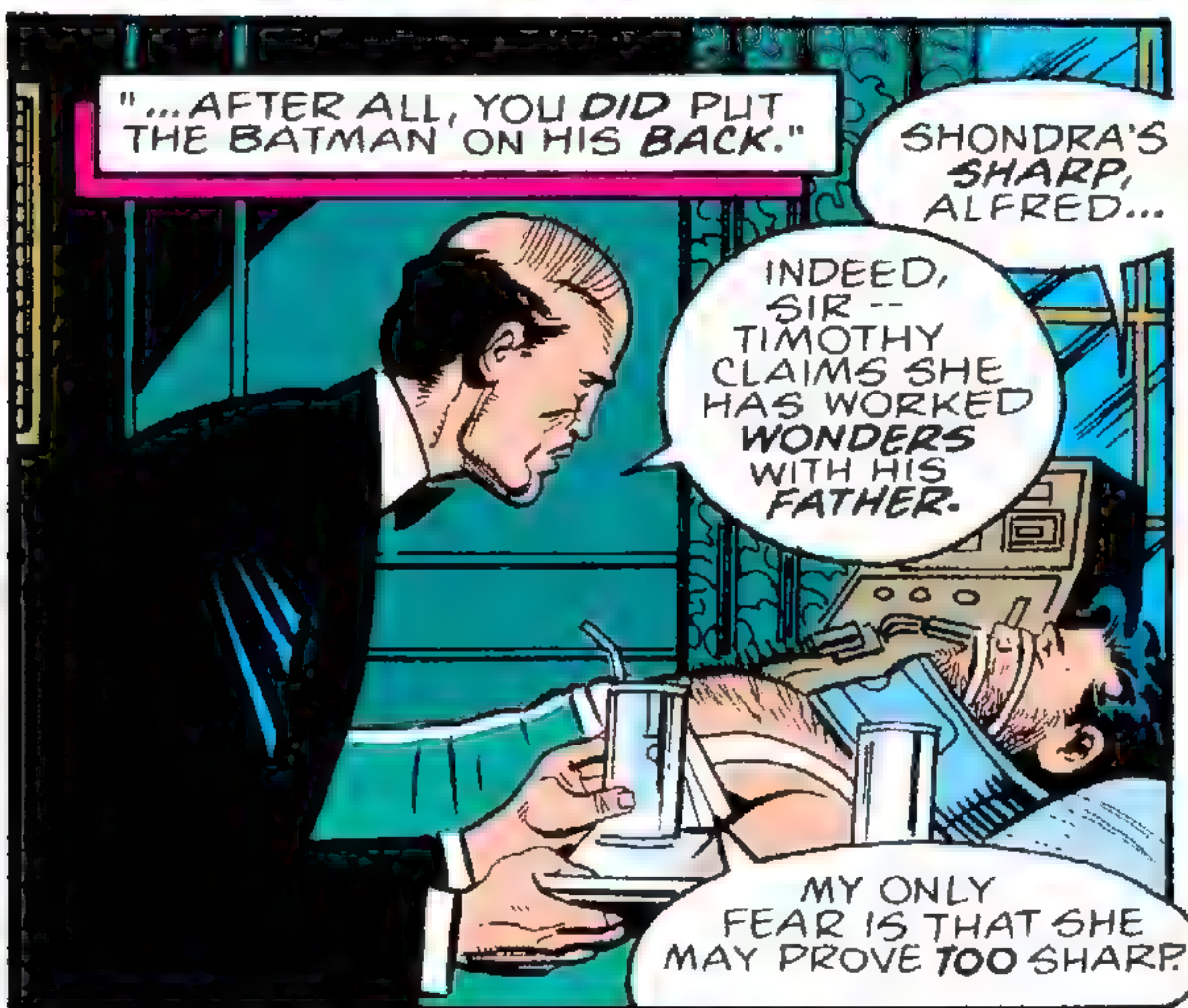


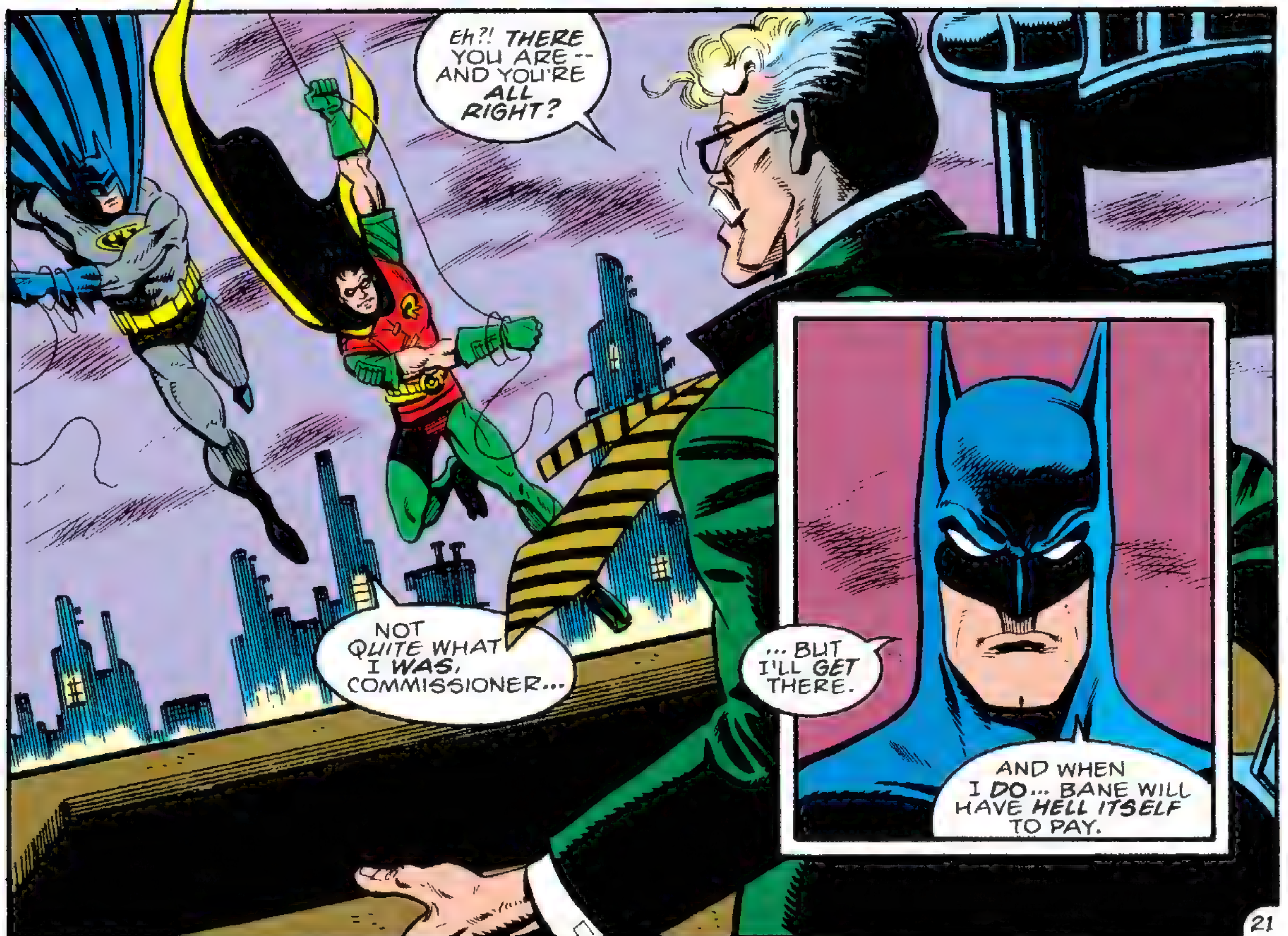
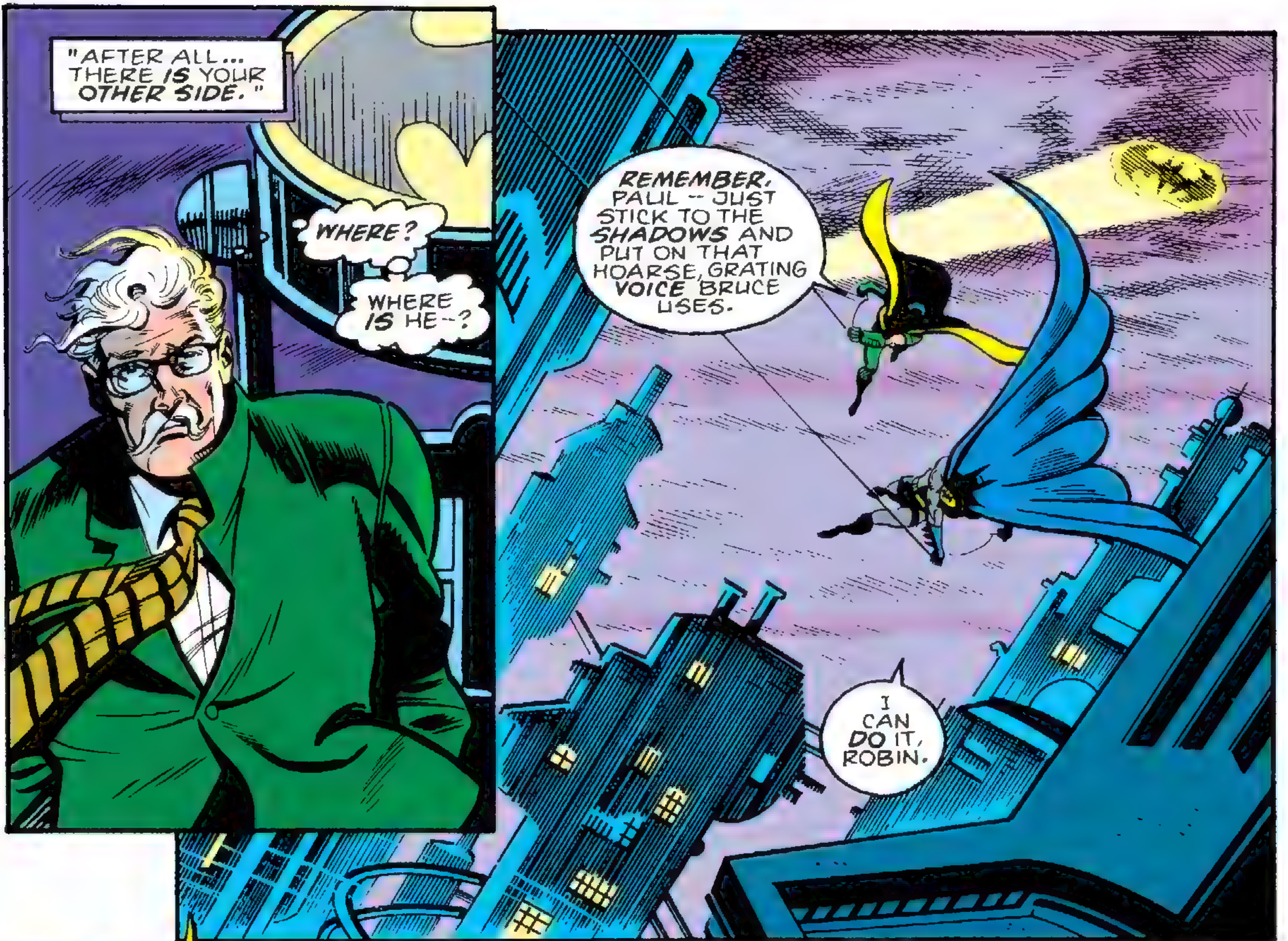
YOU'RE WRONG -- I'LL BE BETTER.

BIG WORDS.

JUST DON'T TRY 'EM OUT ON **BANE**.









IT'S BEEN A LONG, DANGEROUS DANCE...



... AND MAYBE THE PIPER MUST BE PAID...

MAYBE ALFRED'S WRONG... AND MAYBE...

... I SHOULD TELL SHONDRA... EVERYTHING.



NO 16 EARLY SEP 93
PART ONE OF THREE

KNIGHTFALL™

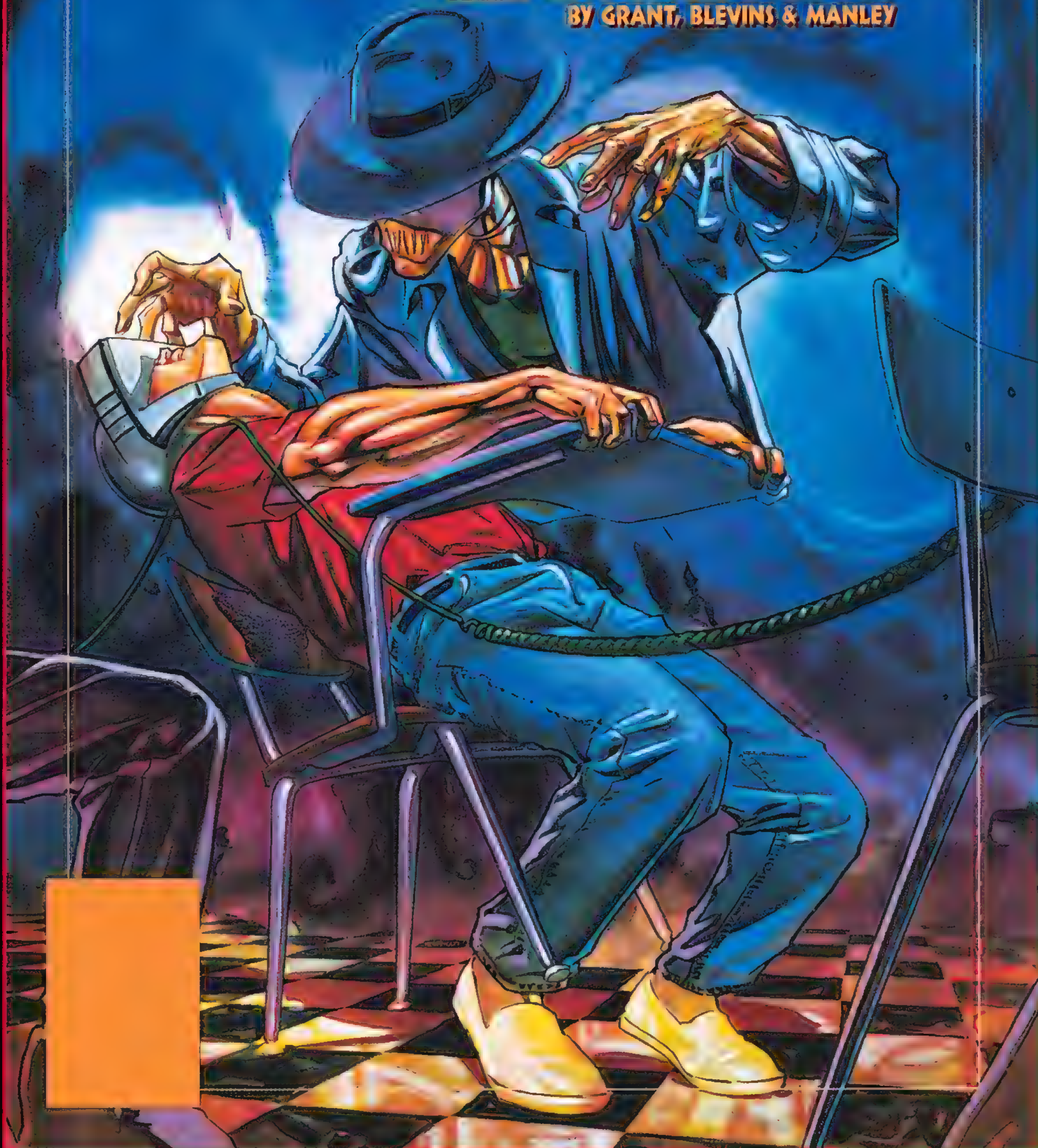


BATMAN®

SHADOW OF THE BAT™

THE GOD OF FEAR

BY GRANT, BLEVINS & MANLEY





Cover art by
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ALAN GRANT

Writer

BRET BLEVINS

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MIKE MANLEY

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ADRIENNE ROY

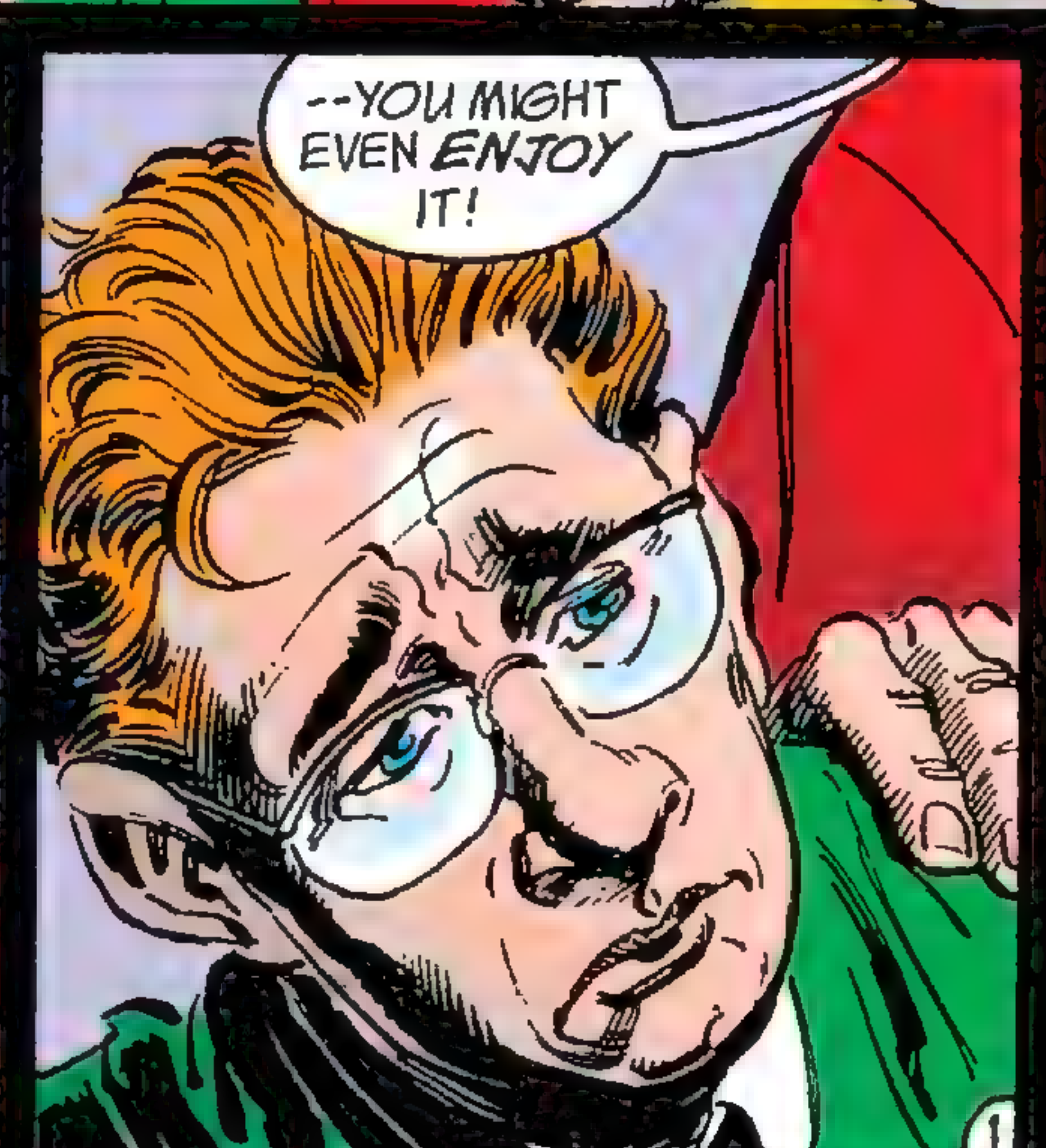
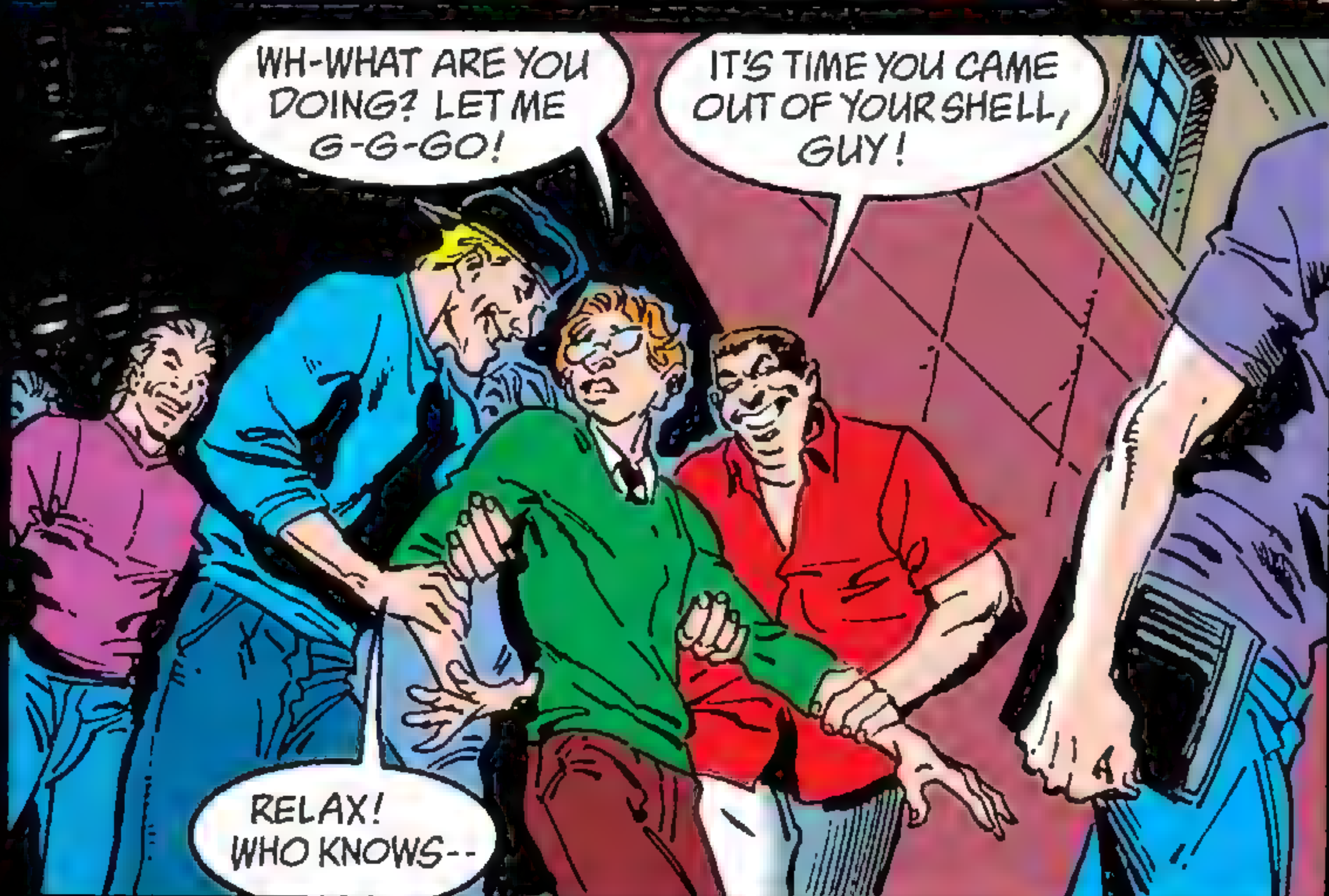
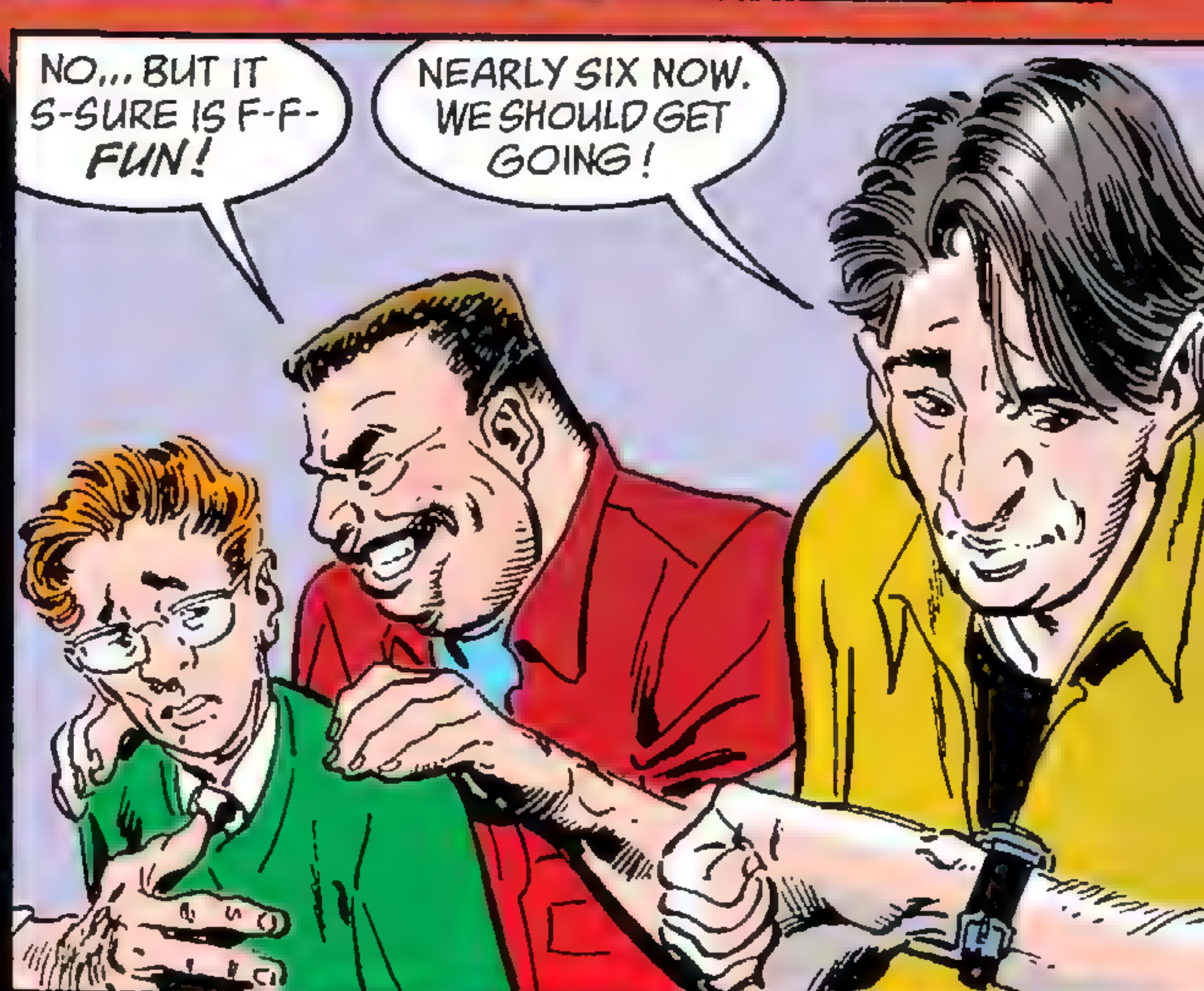
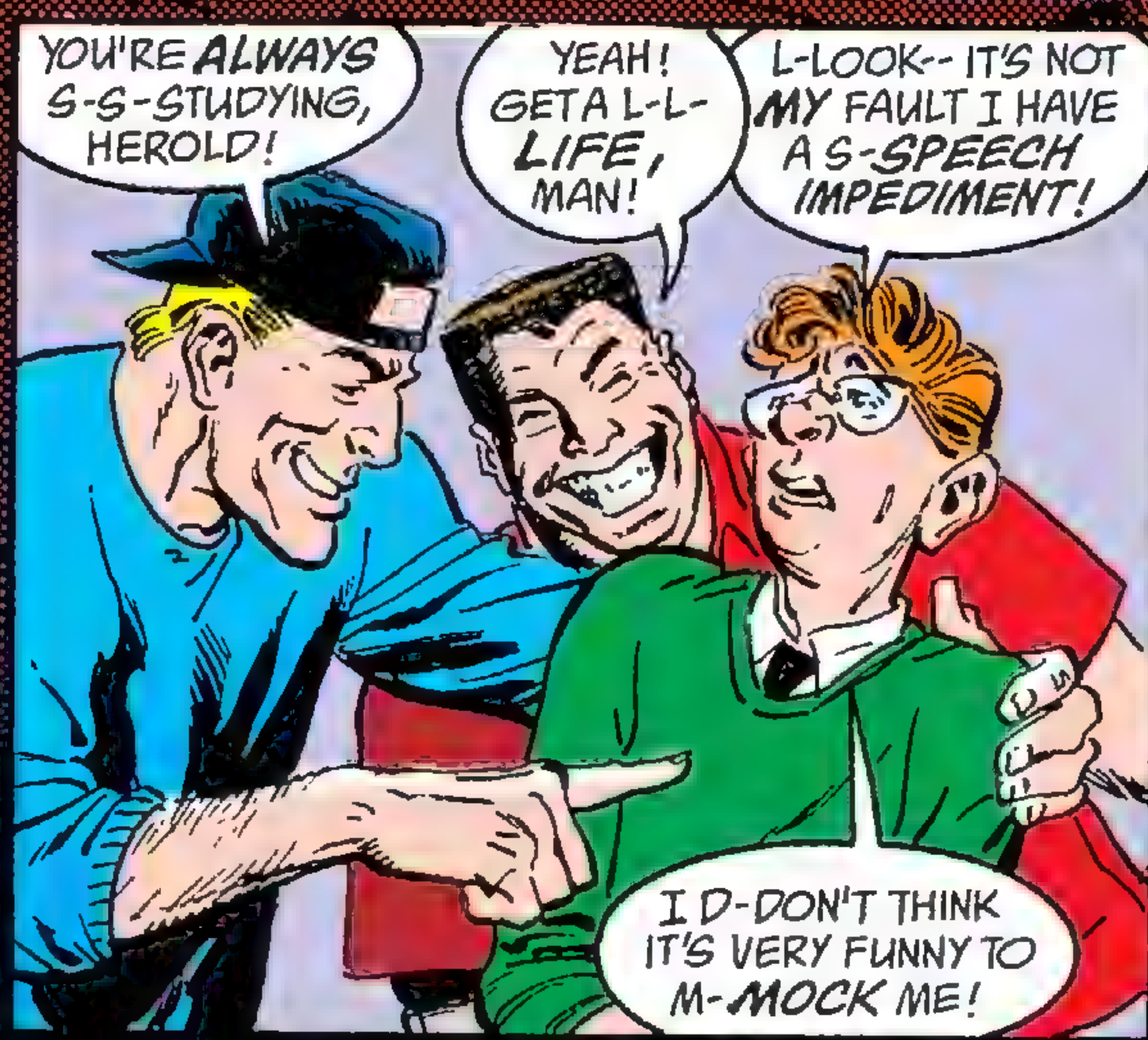
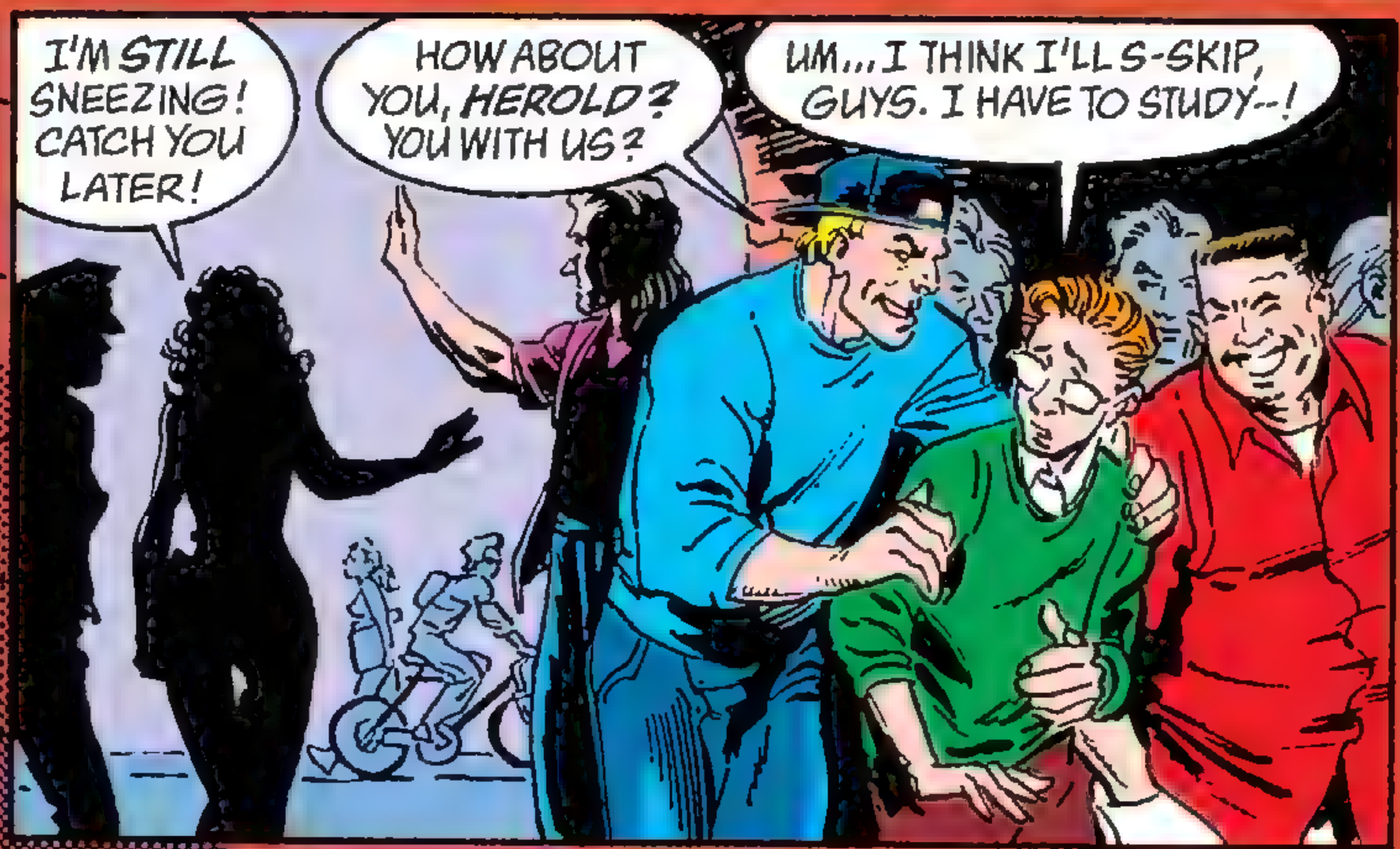
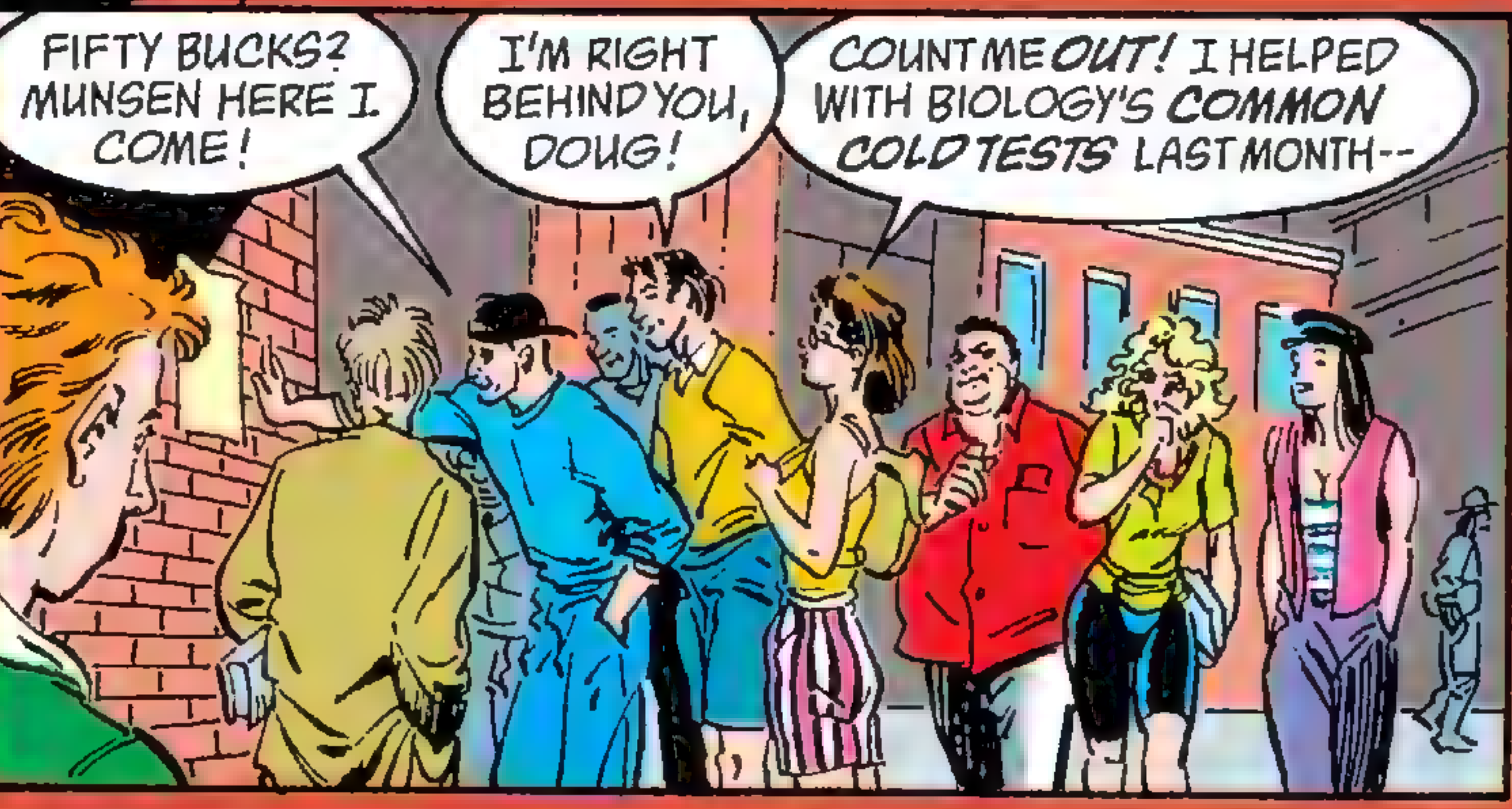
Colorist

TODD KLEIN

Letterer

STUDENTS
EARN \$50
TODAY!

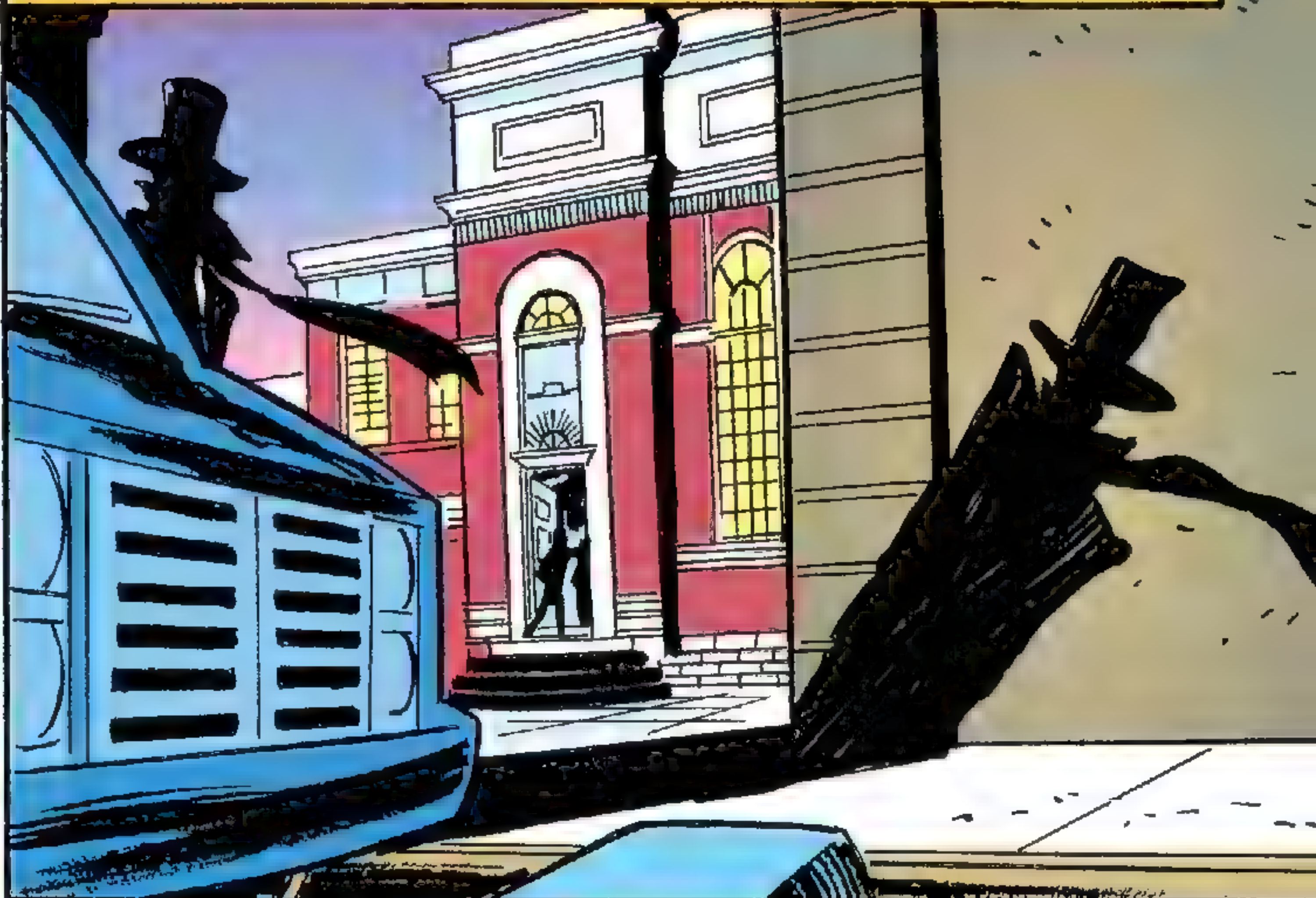
Volunteers Required
for Harmless
Psychology Experiment
Report to Munsen Annex,
Gotham U. ~ 6 PM



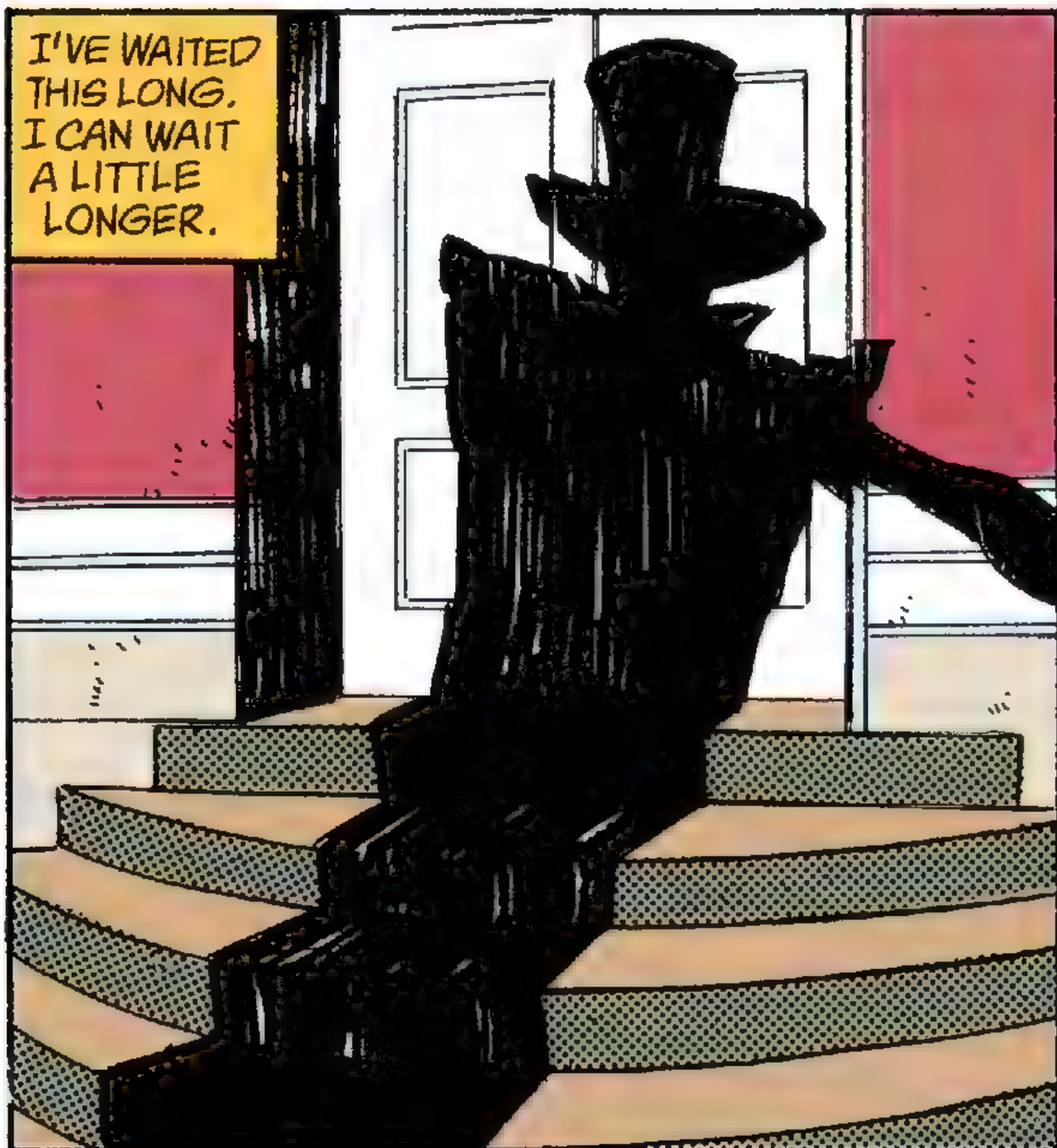
TEN YEARS...TEN LONG, ROLLER-COASTER YEARS SINCE I SHOWED MY FACE HERE.



I REMEMBER THE **CONTEMPT**--THE **HUMILIATION**--AS IF IT WAS YESTERDAY. **ANGER** BUBBLES UP...BUT I KEEP IT IN CHECK, NOURISHING IT, SAVORING IT.

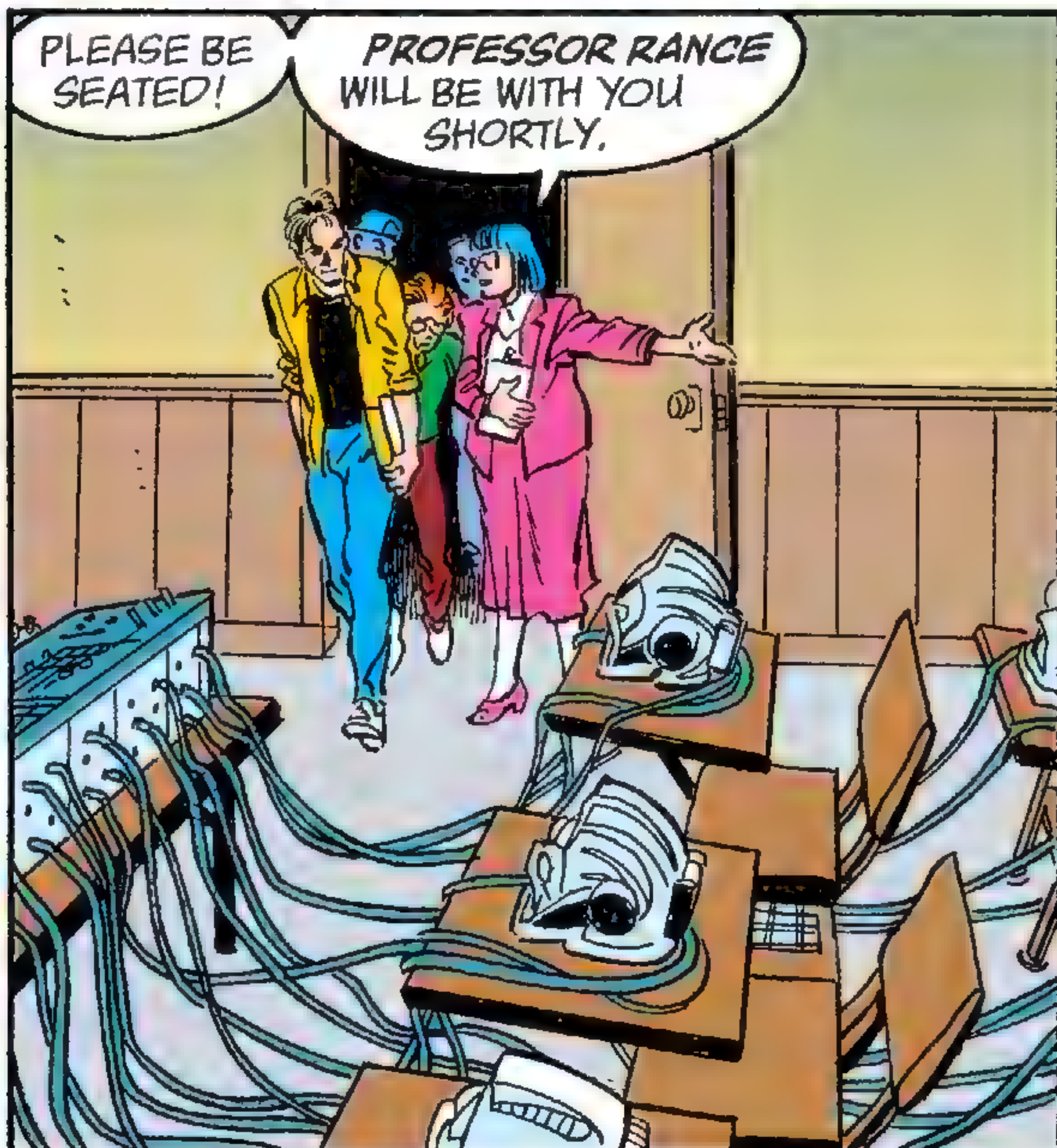


I'VE WAITED THIS LONG. I CAN WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.



PLEASE BE SEATED!

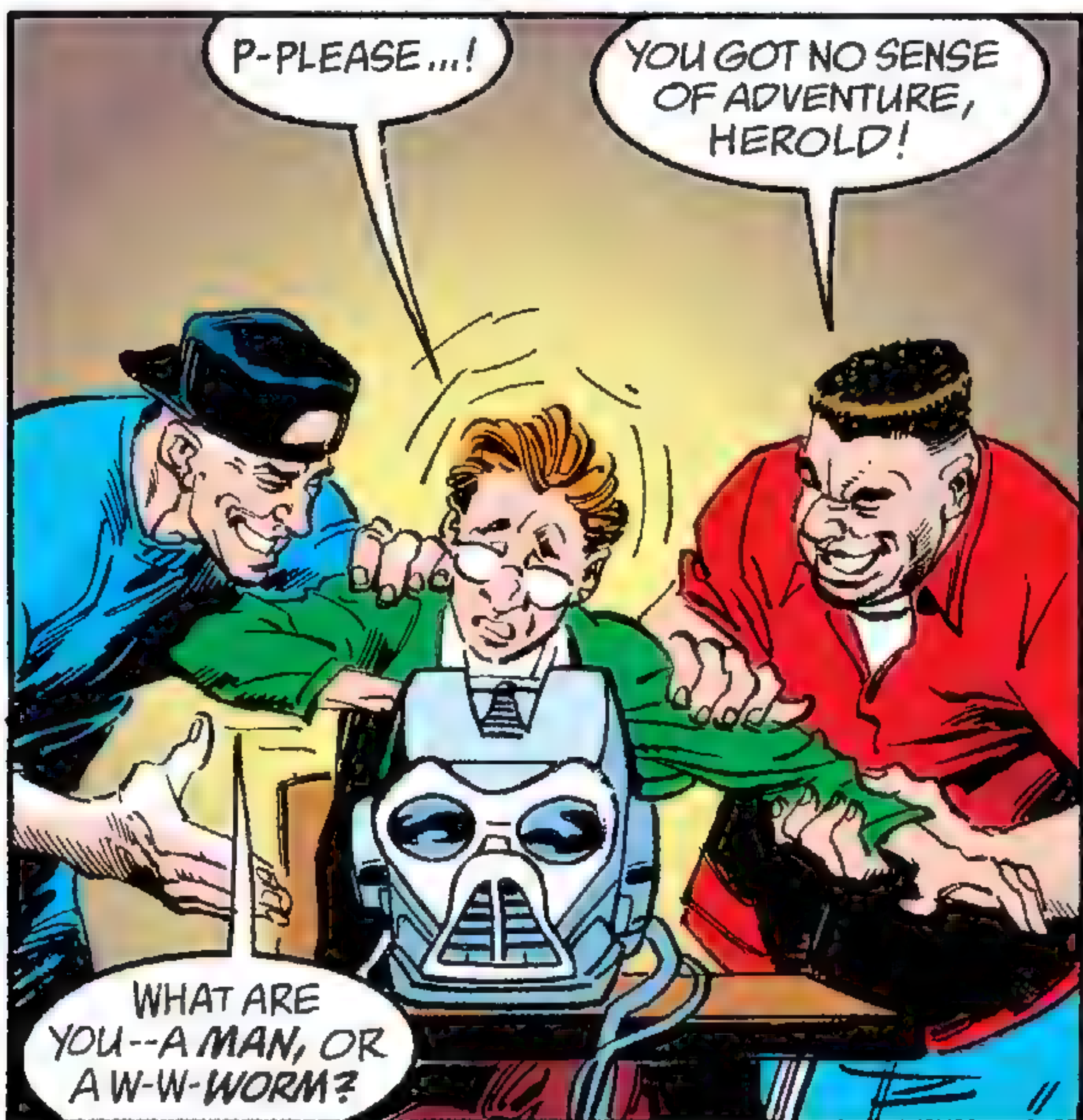
PROFESSOR RANCE WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.



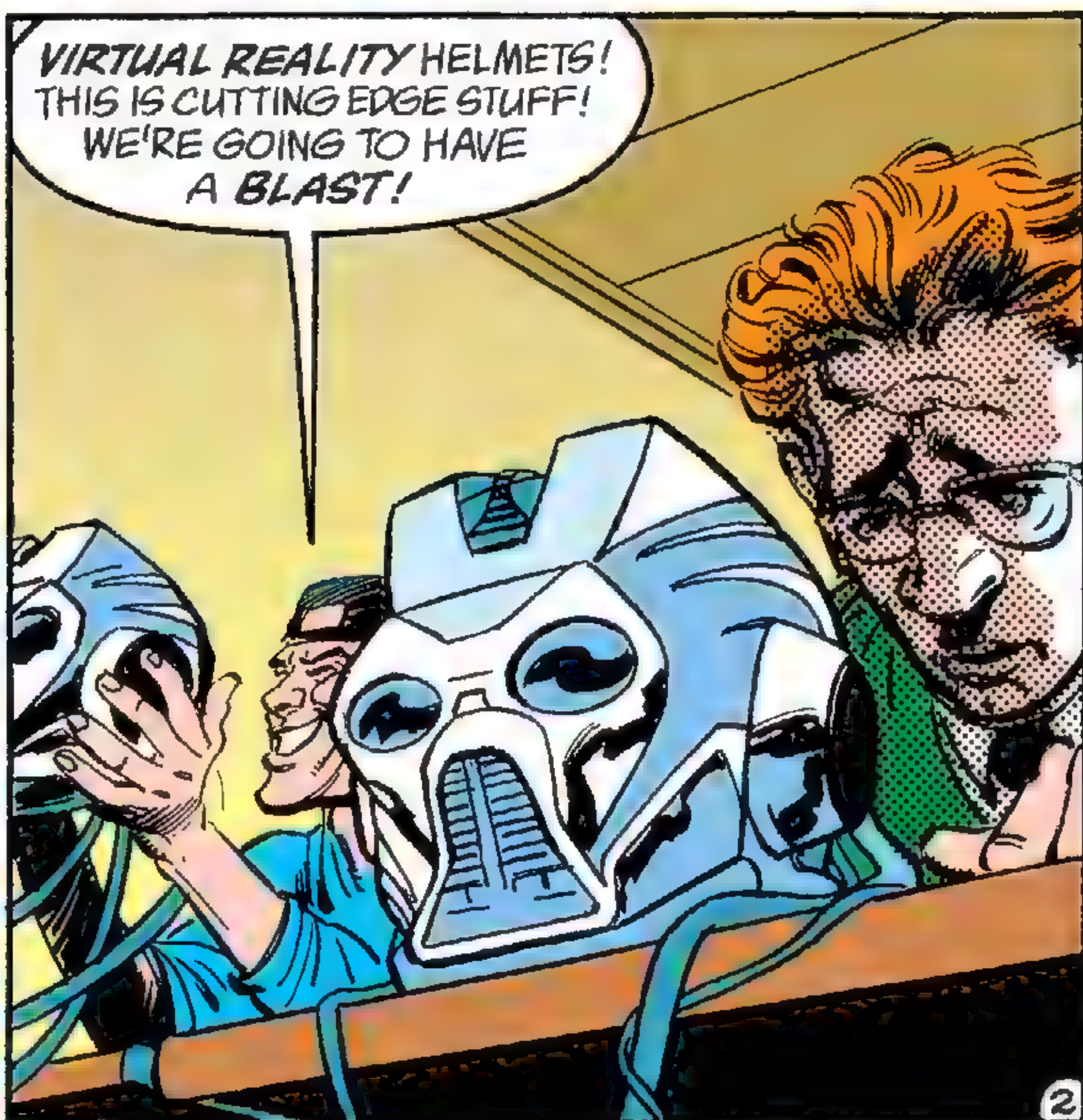
P-PLEASE...!

YOU GOT NO SENSE OF ADVENTURE, HEROLD!

WHAT ARE YOU--A MAN, OR A W-W-WORM?

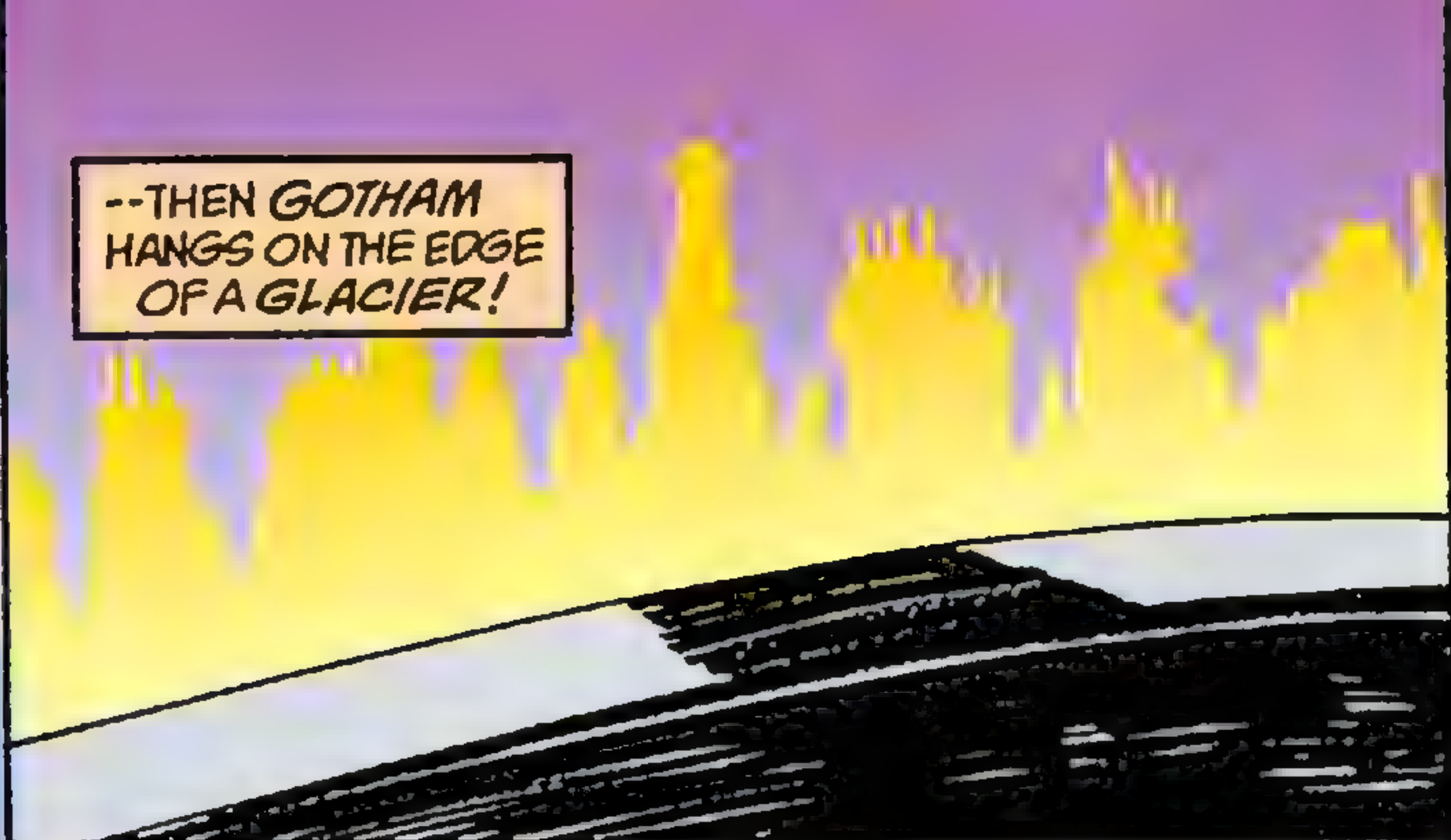


VIRTUAL REALITY HELMETS! THIS IS CUTTING EDGE STUFF! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A **BLAST**!

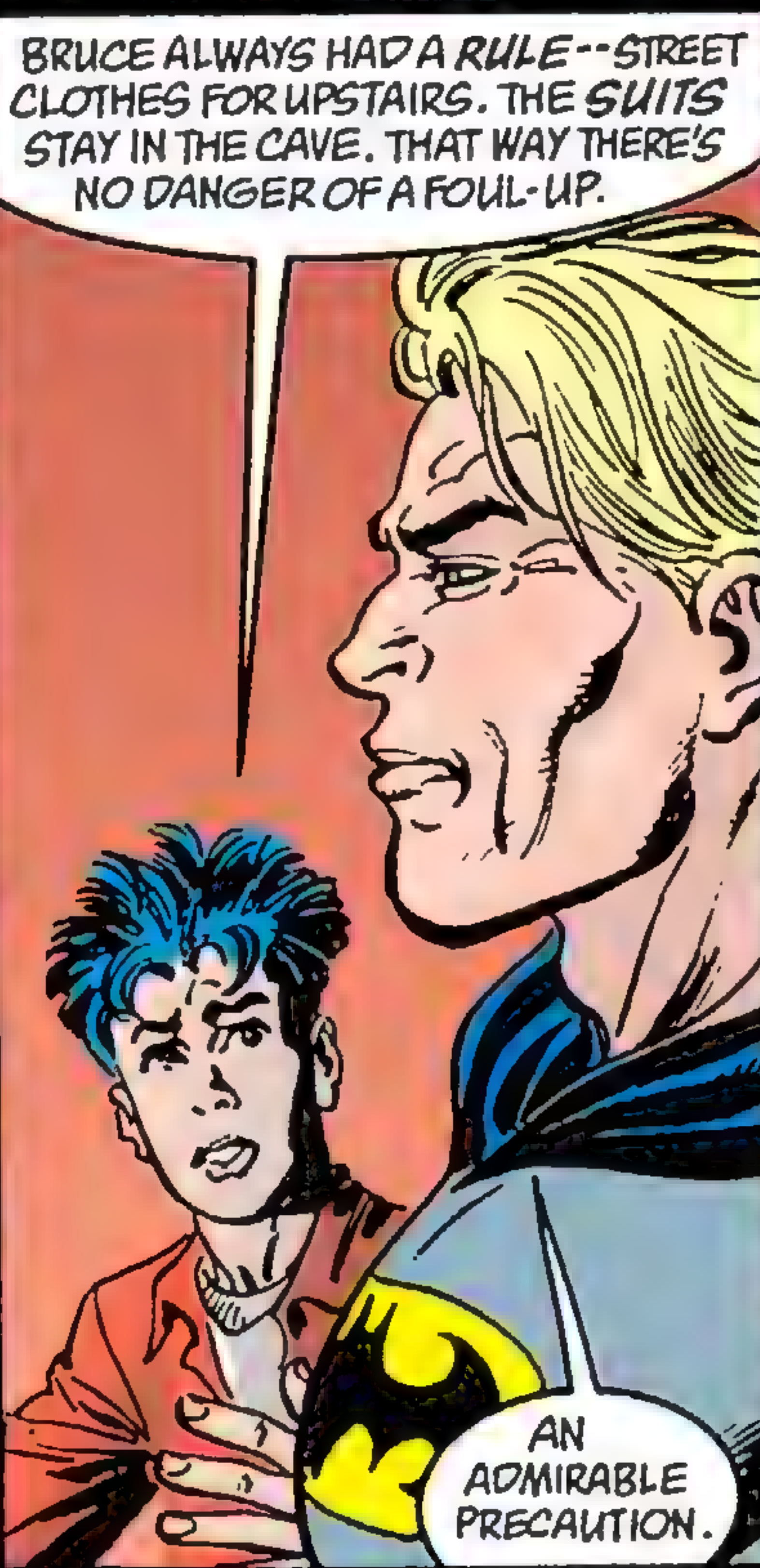
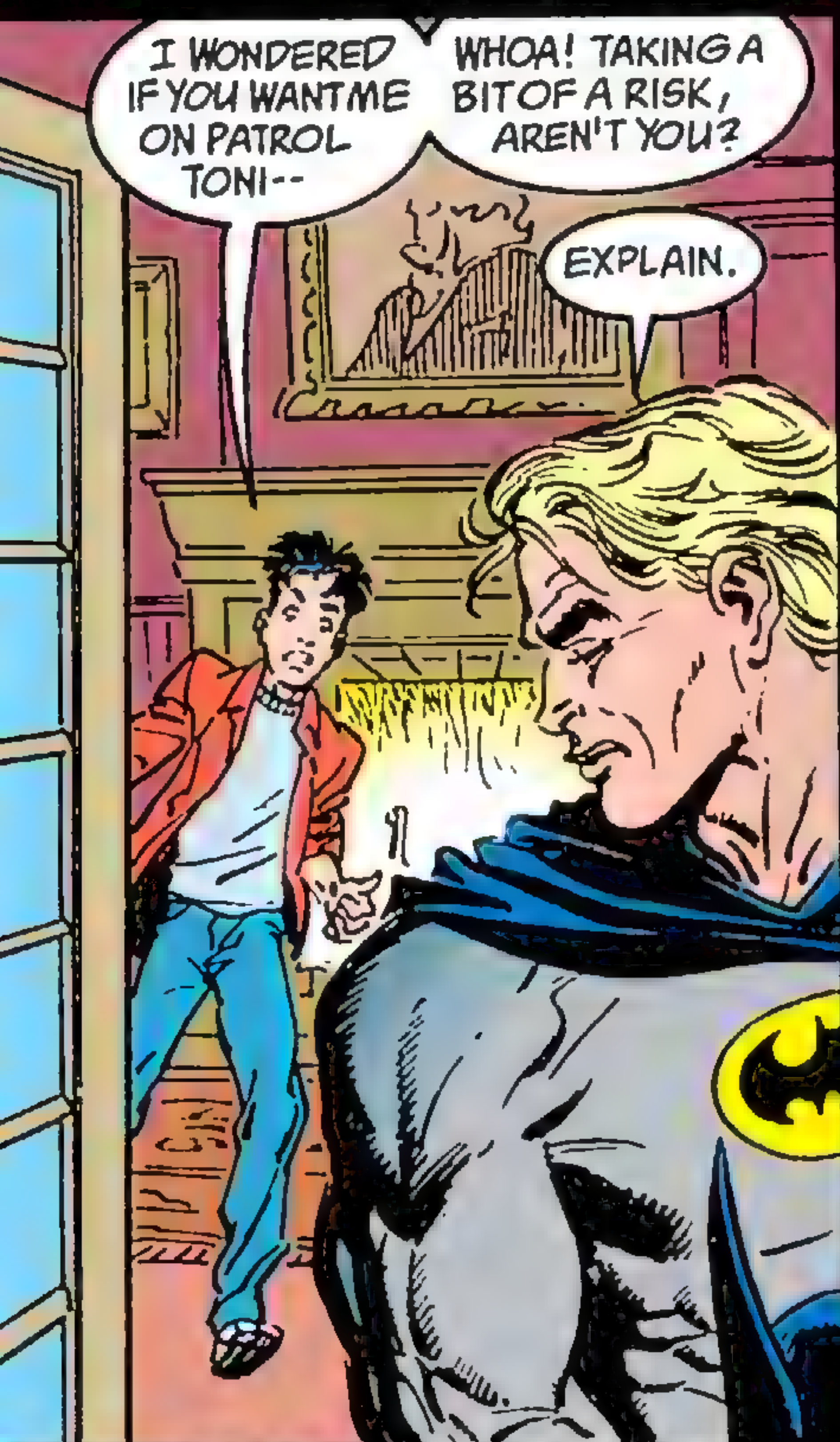
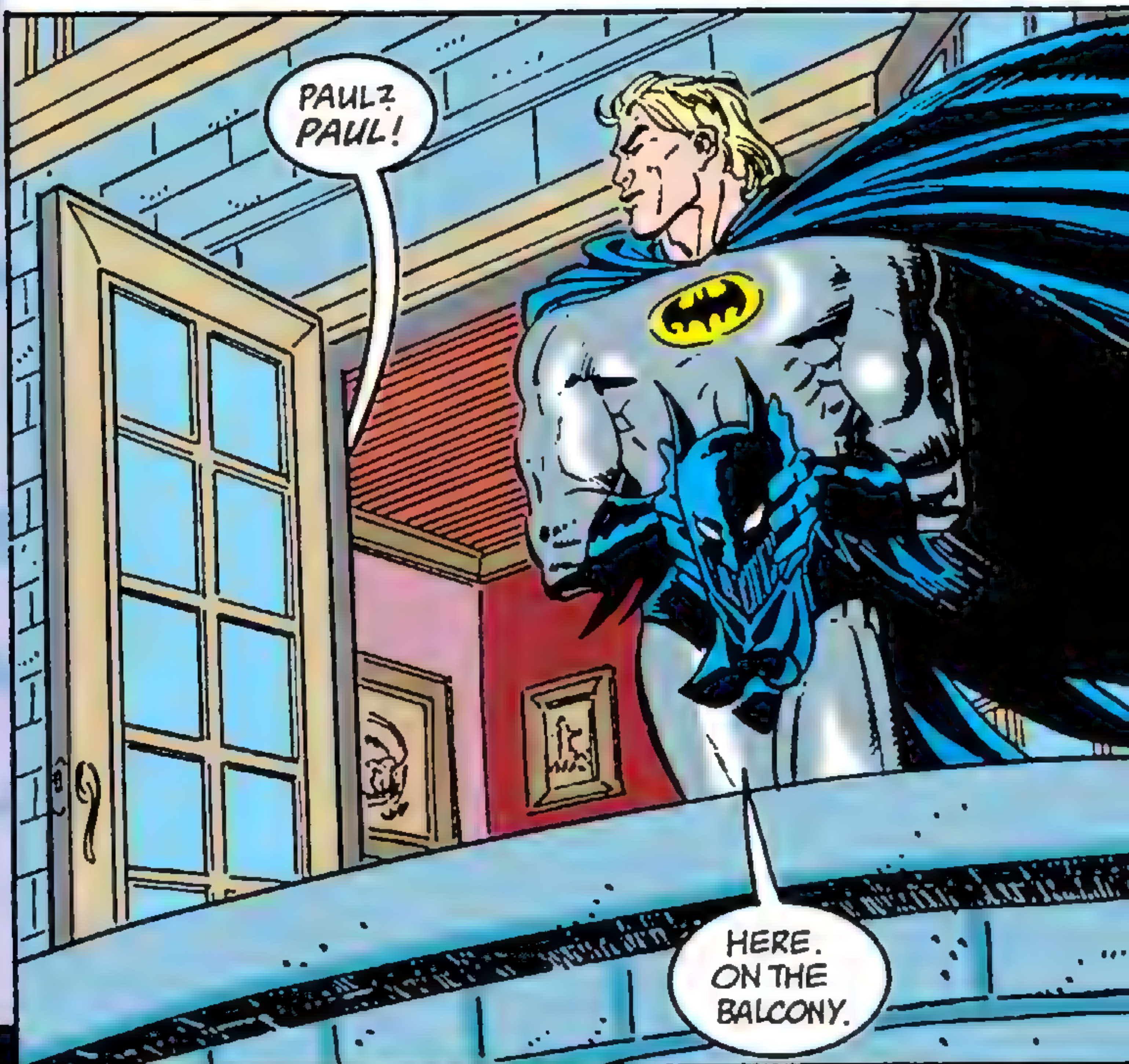




IF IT'S TRUE
WHAT THEY
SAY, THAT
REVENGE
IS A DISH
BEST TAKEN
COLD--



--THEN GOTHAM
HANGS ON THE EDGE
OF A GLACIER!

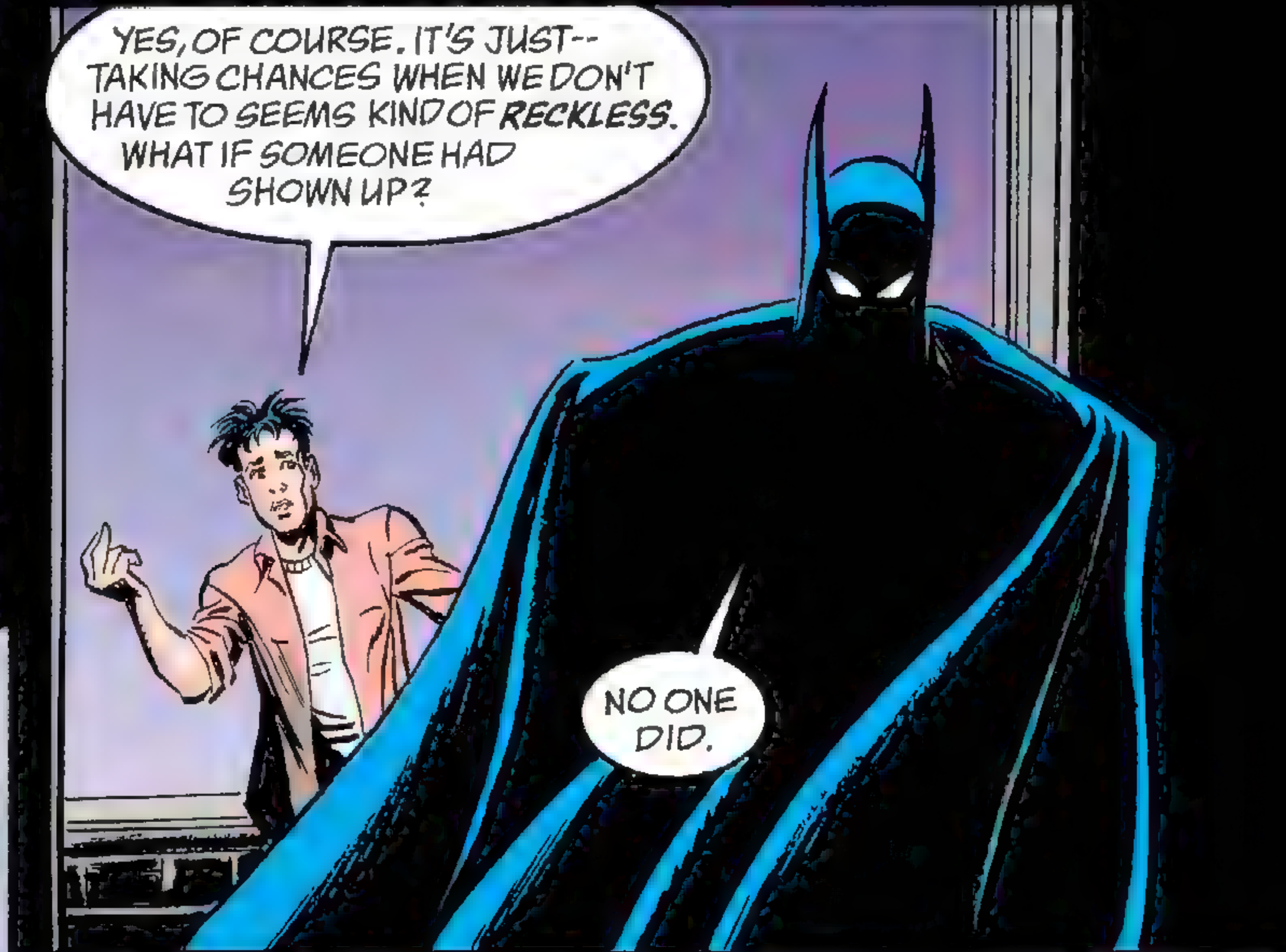


AN
ADMIRABLE
PRECAUTION.



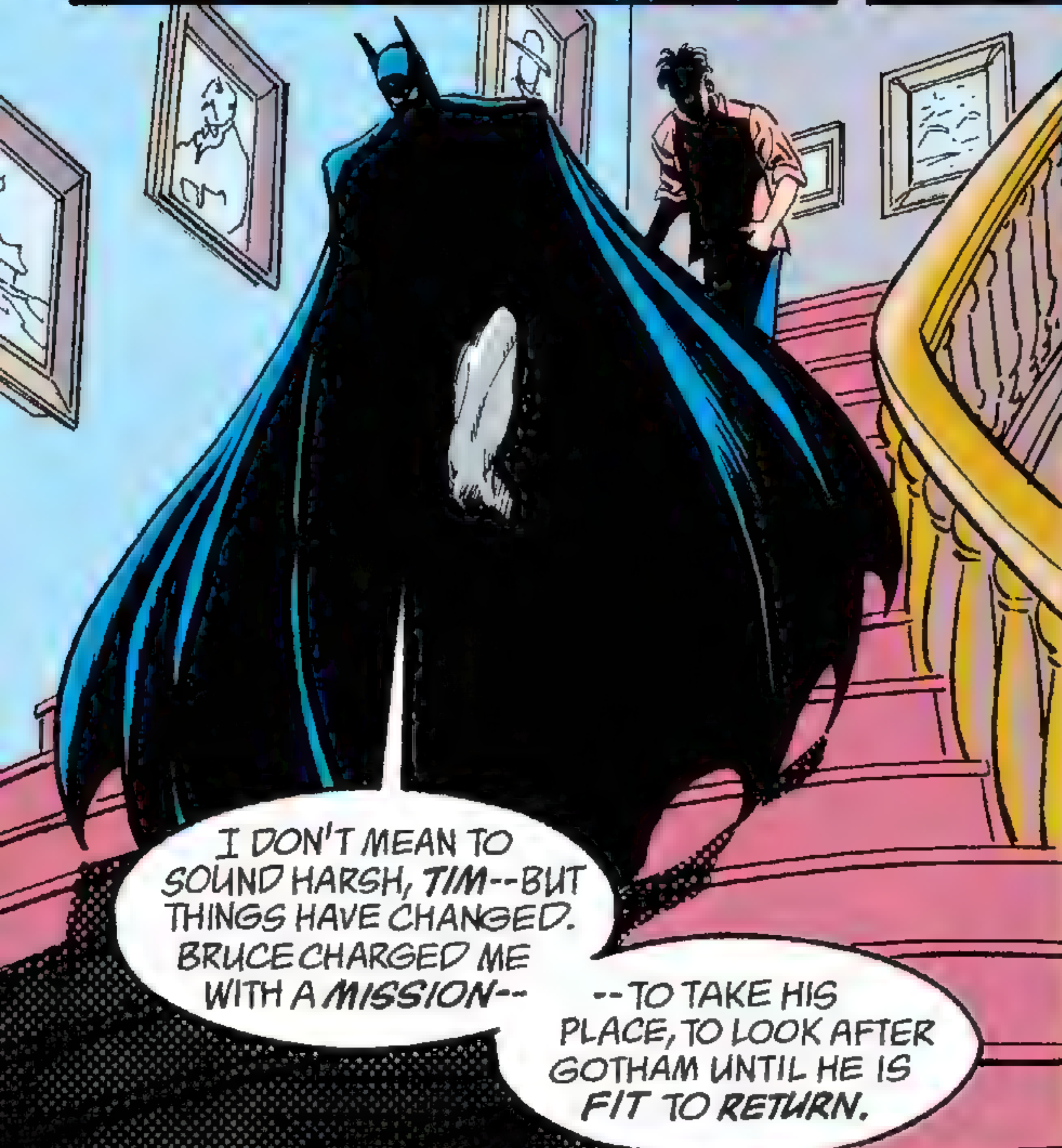
I AM THE
BATMAN
NOW.

I'LL DO
THINGS MY
WAY.



YES, OF COURSE. IT'S JUST--
TAKING CHANCES WHEN WE DON'T
HAVE TO SEEMS KIND OF RECKLESS.
WHAT IF SOMEONE HAD
SHOWN UP?

NO ONE
DID.



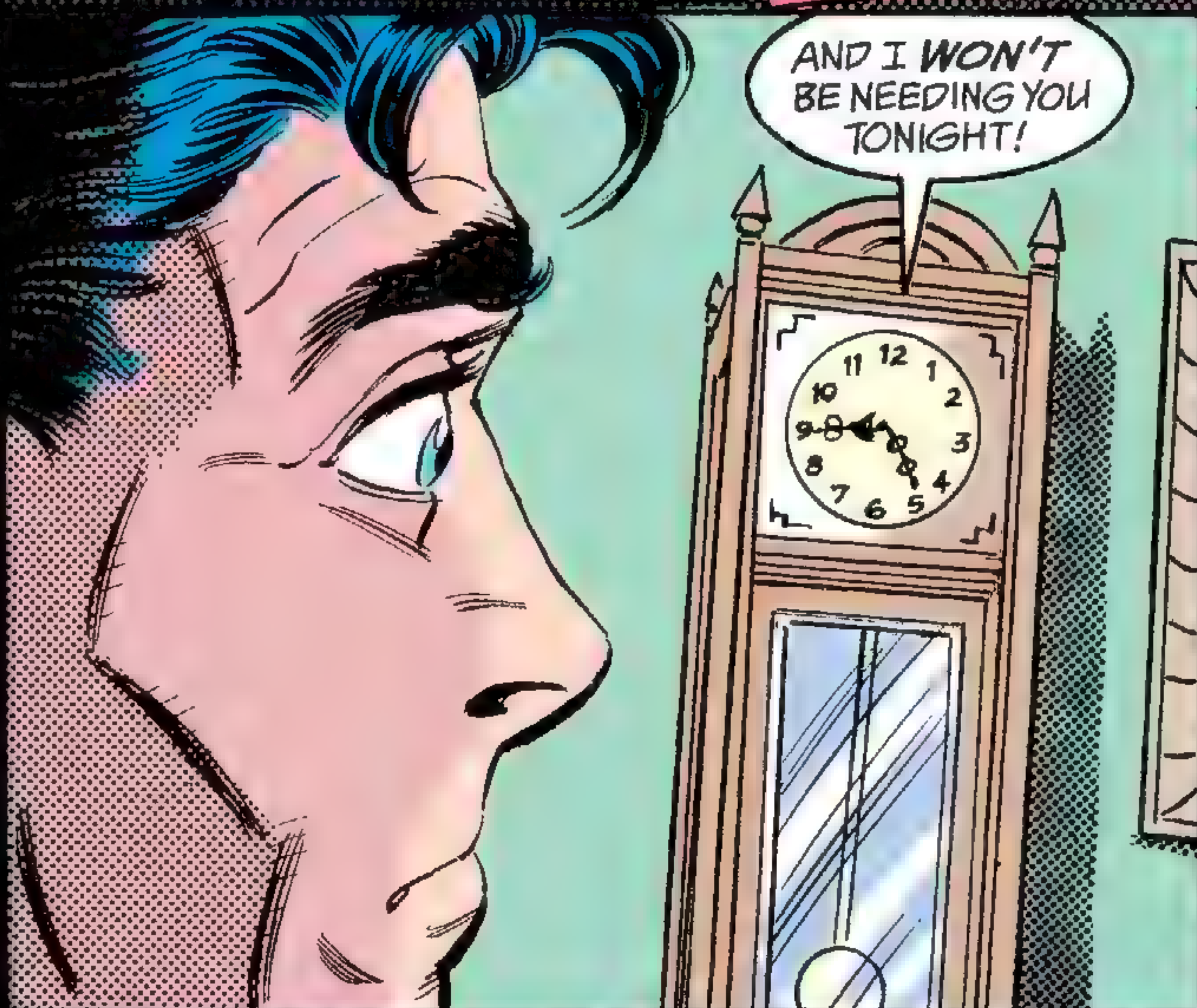
I DON'T MEAN TO
SOUND HARSH, TIM--BUT
THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
BRUCE CHARGED ME
WITH A MISSION--

--TO TAKE HIS
PLACE, TO LOOK AFTER
GOTHAM UNTIL HE IS
FIT TO RETURN.

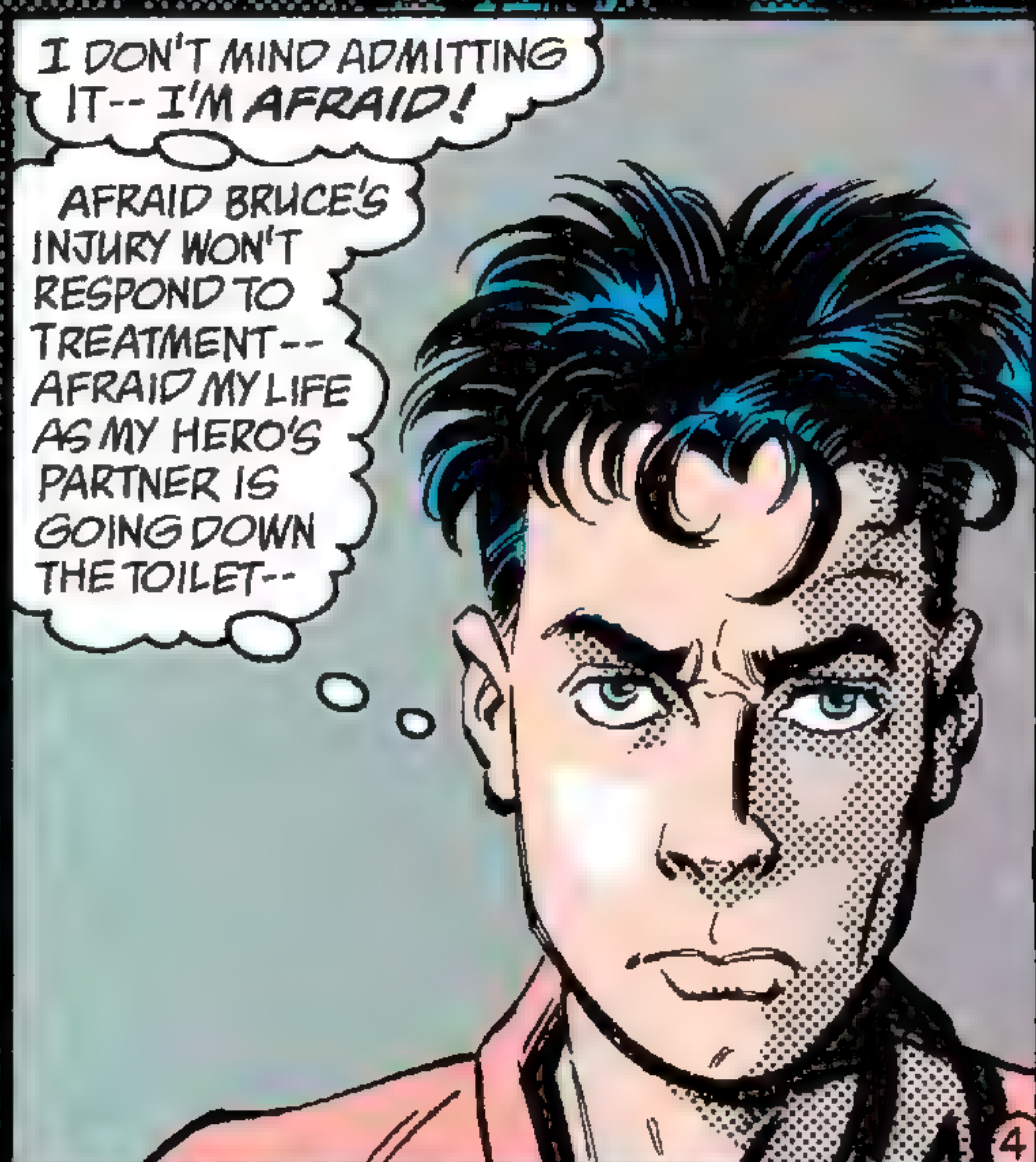


I WILL
DISCHARGE THAT
MISSION.

MY
WAY!

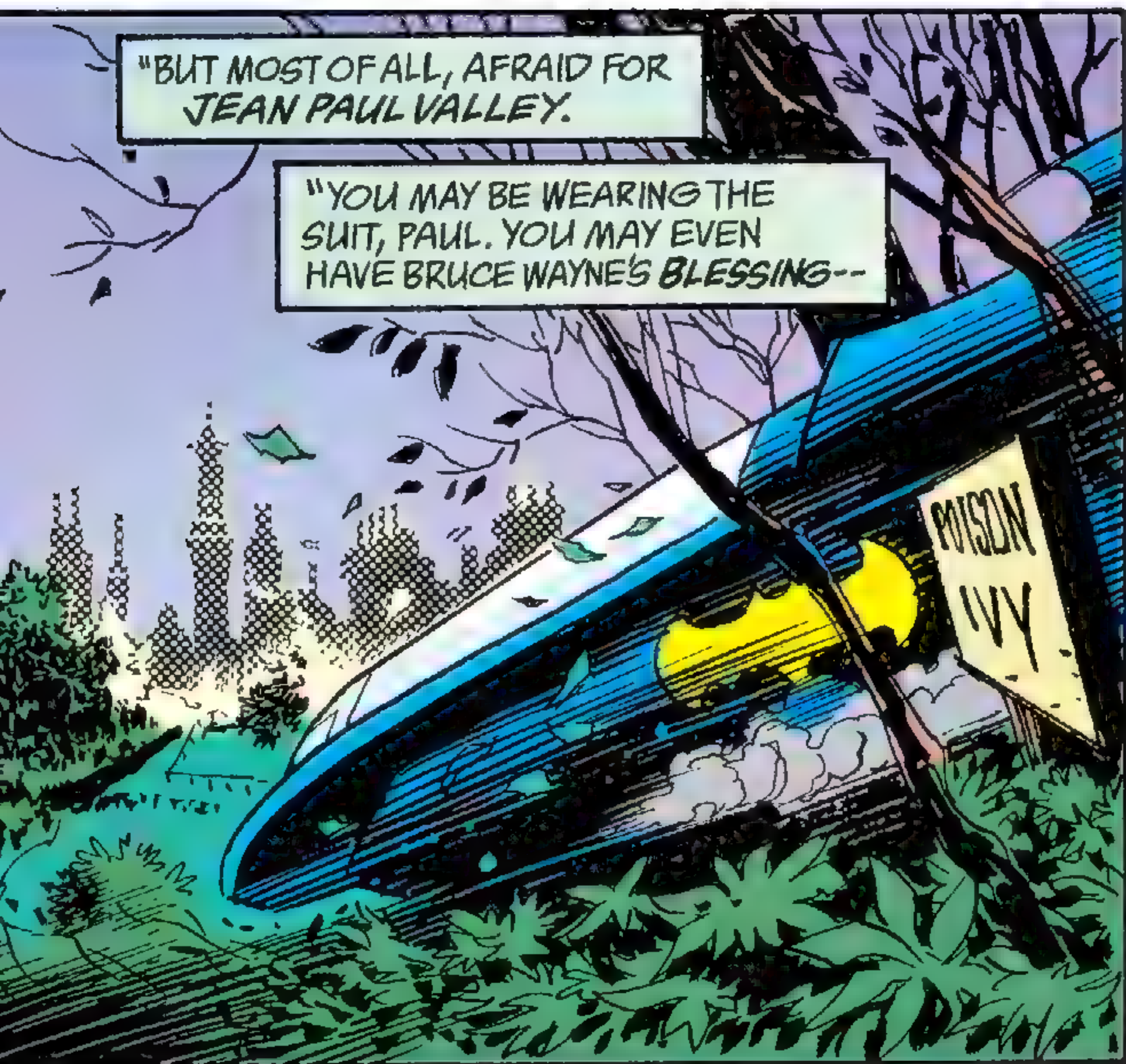


AND I WON'T
BE NEEDING YOU
TONIGHT!



I DON'T MIND ADMITTING
IT-- I'M AFRAID!

AFRAID BRUCE'S
INJURY WON'T
RESPOND TO
TREATMENT--
AFRAID MY LIFE
AS MY HERO'S
PARTNER IS
GOING DOWN
THE TOILET--



"BUT MOST OF ALL, AFRAID FOR
JEAN PAUL VALLEY.

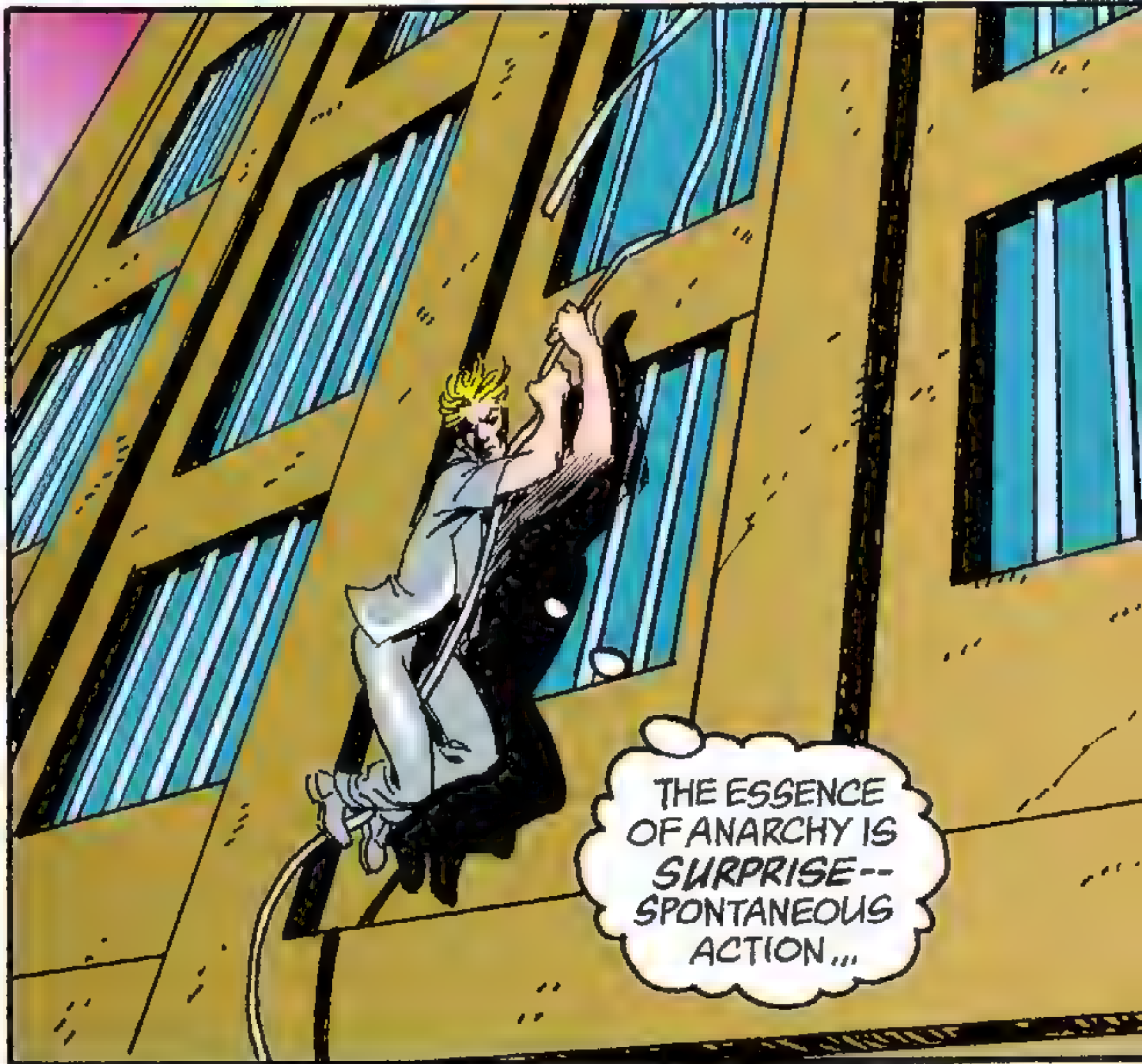
"YOU MAY BE WEARING THE
SUIT, PAUL. YOU MAY EVEN
HAVE BRUCE WAYNE'S *BLESSING*--



"BUT IF YOU WANT
TO BE EVEN *HALF*
THE MAN HE IS,
YOU STILL HAVE
A *WHOLE LOT*
TO LEARN!"



THE CREEPS
JUST NEVER
GET IT!



THE ESSENCE
OF ANARCHY IS
SURPRISE--
SPONTANEOUS
ACTION...



...EVEN WHEN IT
DOES REQUIRE
A LITTLE
PLANNING!



THEY'RE SO EAGER TO REFORM ME,
THEY REWARD THE LEAST HINT OF
CHANGE IN MY ATTITUDE.

SAYING I'M GLAD THE
DEMOCRATS WON GOT ME
A JOB IN THE METAL SHOP...!



DEMOCRACY...
HAH! THERE'S A
LAUGH. THEY **PRETEND**
THAT IT WORKS --
PRETEND THAT THE
VOICE OF THE
PEOPLE, SPOKEN
THROUGH ITS ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES,
WILL BE **HEARD.**



TRASH! THE WORLD IS RUN BY **ELITES**
--BANKERS, THE MILITARY, GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES. CRIMINALS ALL, THEY
PREY LIKE VAMPIRES ON THEIR
VICTIMS ...!



I'VE BEEN THINKING
A LOT ABOUT ELITES LATELY.
HOW THEY COME TO POWER--

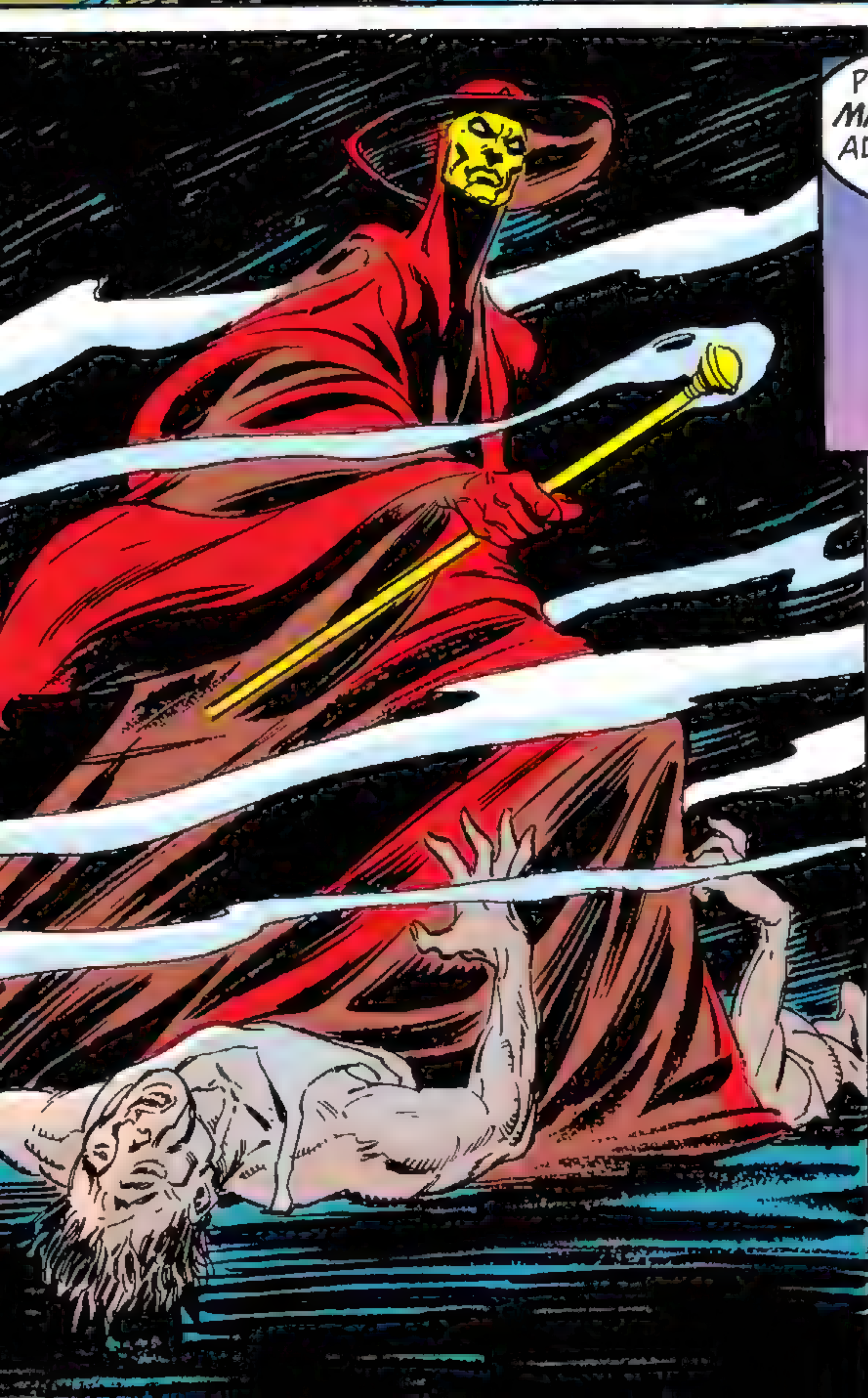


--HOW TO
STOP THEM!

GAME'S A
BOGEY, HOMEY!
WHAT YA GOT
STASHED?



UH-OH...!



PROFESSOR RANCE? I'M
MARION STOPES, PSYCHOLOGY
ADMINISTRATION. WE SPOKE
ON THE PHONE...

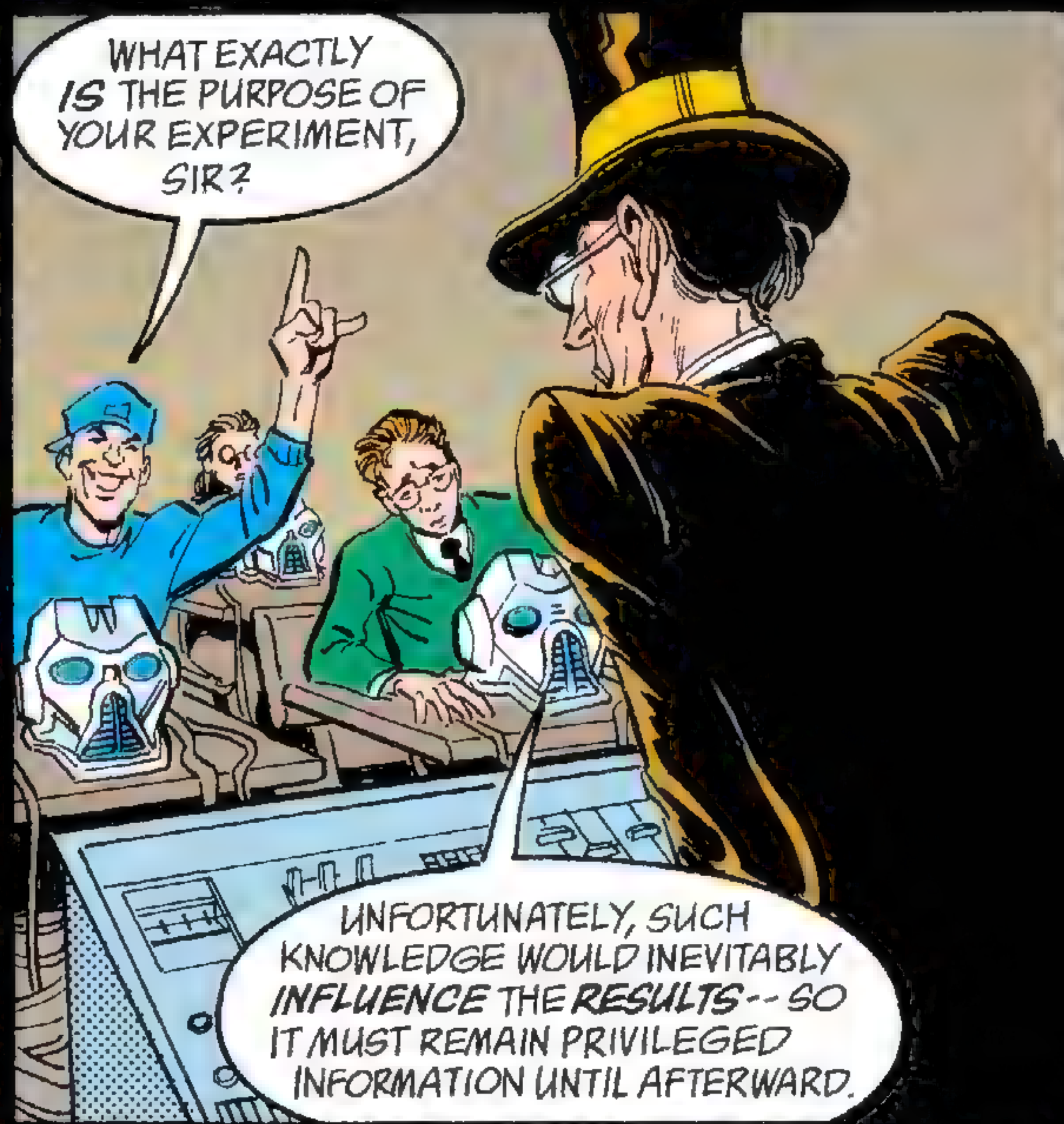
...WHEN I CALLED
TO HIRE THE HALL? MY DEAR
LADY--I WOULD RECOG-
NIZE THAT ANGELIC
VOICE ANYWHERE!

WHY,
THANK YOU,
PROFESSOR!





GENTLEMEN, I AM PROFESSOR RANCE. OF COURSE, IT IS GREED RATHER THAN LOVE OF KNOWLEDGE WHICH HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE TONIGHT--BUT FOR THE PURPOSE OF MY EXPERIMENT THAT IS IRRELEVANT!



WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR EXPERIMENT, SIR?

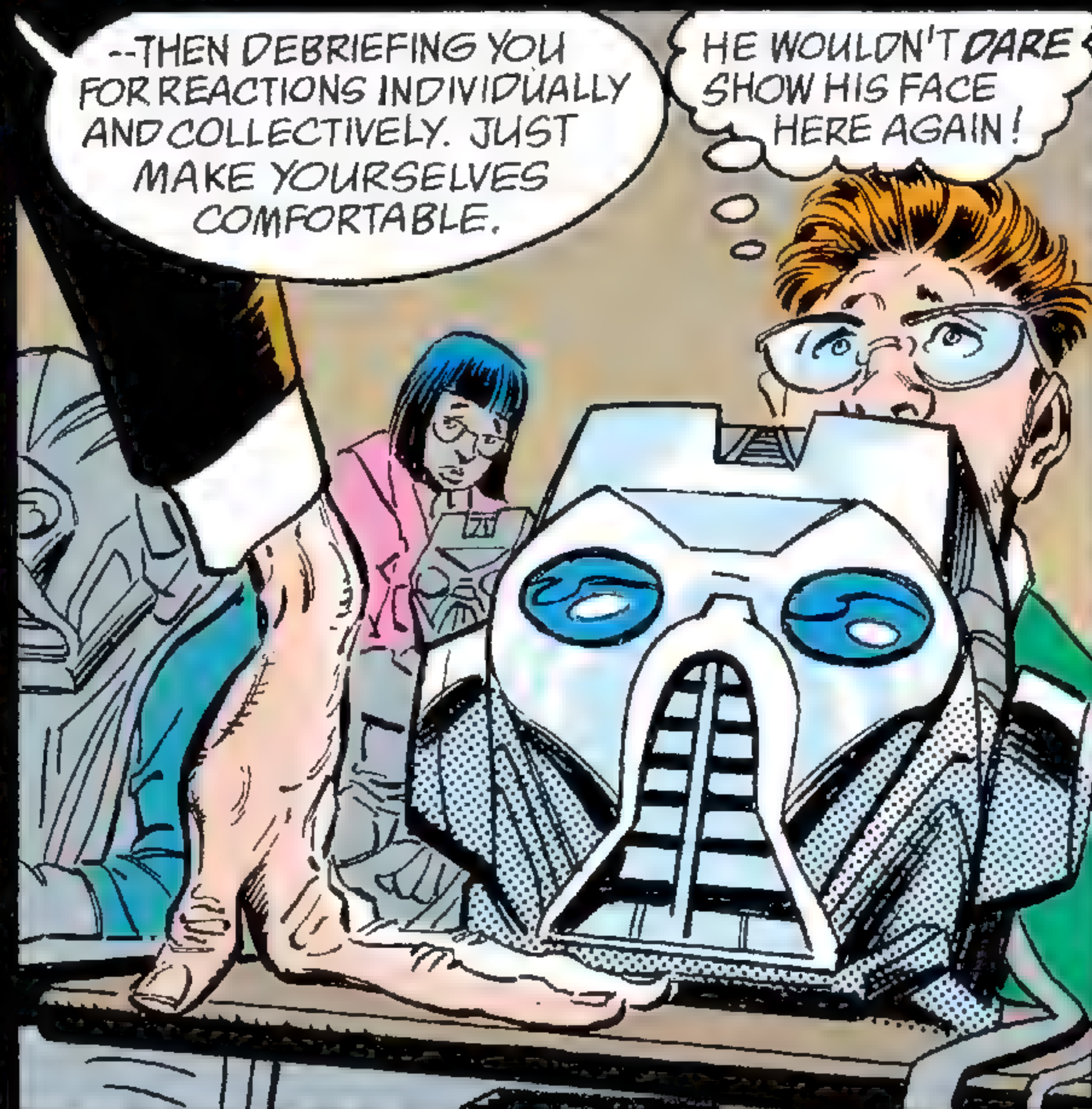
UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH KNOWLEDGE WOULD INEVITABLY INFLUENCE THE RESULTS--SO IT MUST REMAIN PRIVILEGED INFORMATION UNTIL AFTERWARD.



IF YOU'D PUT THE HELMET ON, PLEASE...?

BASICALLY, I'LL BE SHOWING YOU A HIGH-SPEED MONTAGE OF IMAGES--

HIM? BUT... IT CAN'T BE!



--THEN DEBRIEFING YOU FOR REACTIONS INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. JUST MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE.

HE WOULDN'T DARE SHOW HIS FACE HERE AGAIN!



BUT I SAW IN THE PAPERS-- HE ESCAPED FROM ARKHAM ASYLUM!

IT IS HIM!

SOMETHING WRONG, FRIEND...?



Y-YOU'RE NO FRIEND OF MINE! YOUR NAME'S NOT RANCE-- IT'S CRANE! JONATHAN CRANE!

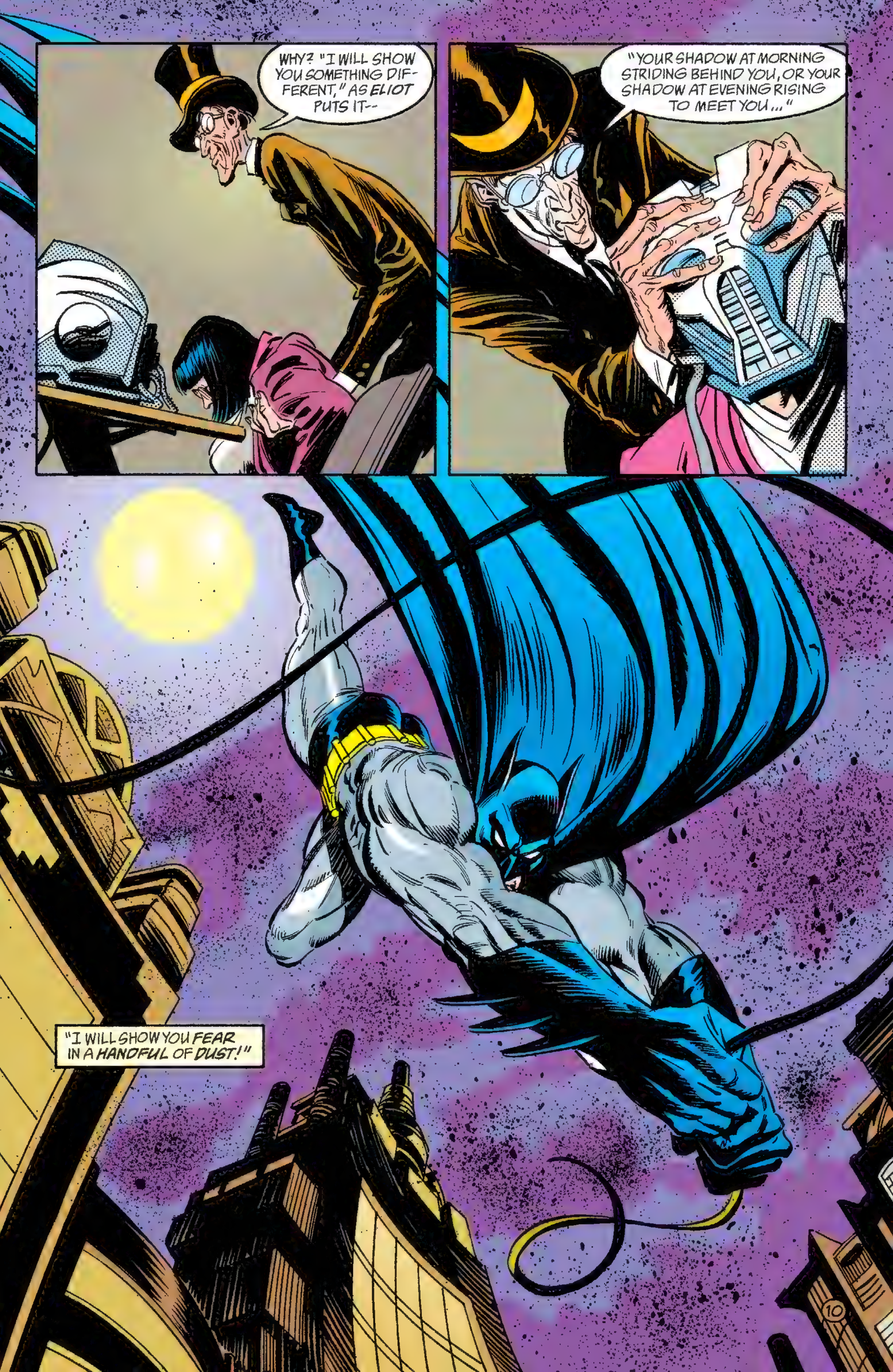
YOU'RE THE S-S-SCARECROW--THE MAN WHO K-KILLED MY FATHER!



WHY? "I WILL SHOW YOU SOMETHING DIFFERENT," AS ELIOT PUTS IT--

"YOUR SHADOW AT MORNING STRIDING BEHIND YOU, OR YOUR SHADOW AT EVENING RISING TO MEET YOU..."

"I WILL SHOW YOU FEAR IN A HANDFUL OF DUST!"



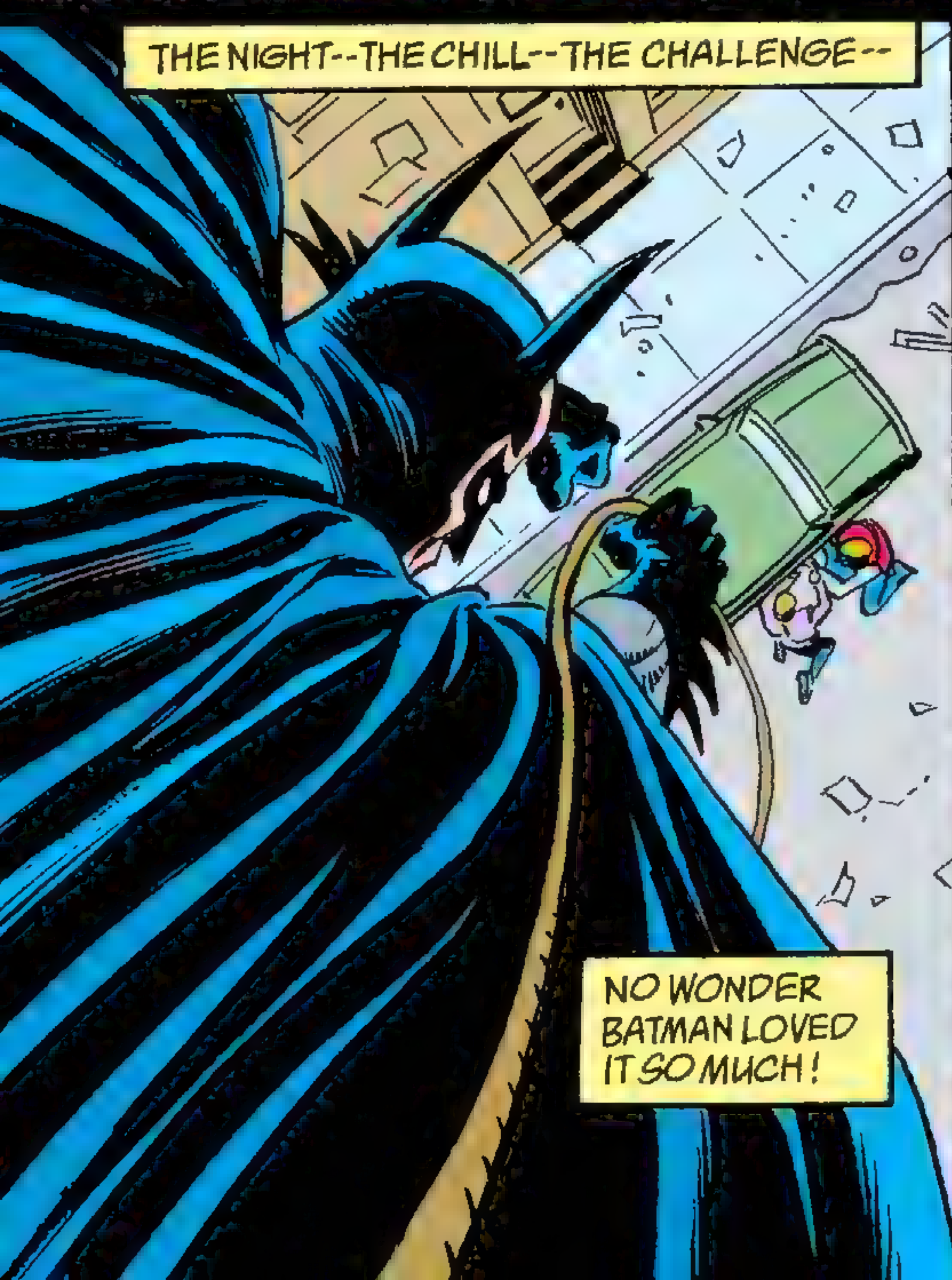
THE CITY'S ON THE BRINK, STRESS
LEVELS ON OVERDOSE. AND
TOWERING ABOVE IT LIKE SOME
MACHIAVELLIAN LORD OF EVIL...
BANE!

BY RIGHTS I SHOULD GO
AGAINST HIM. I COULD TAKE
HIM DOWN. I *KNOW* IT.

BUT I PROMISED
BRUCE WAYNE. BANE
IS *HIS*. THE *REST* OF
THIS EVIL CITY IS
MINE!



THE NIGHT--THE CHILL--THE CHALLENGE--



NO WONDER
BATMAN LOVED
IT SO MUCH!

NO!



NO WONDER I LOVE IT!

LOST
YOUR KEY,
LOWLIFE...?



It's a sunny day. You're feeling good. Truly the world is a wonderful place.

Suddenly, a dark cloud blots your horizon. You feel uneasy... apprehensive.

Nervousness becomes anxiety. Your mouth is dry. Your heart pounds. But you can't run.

Something terrible is going to happen. Something awful, involving much pain and blood. **Your** blood.

But no! You were afraid for nothing. It isn't a monster. It's someone you *love*.

Your scream is choked by your own dry throat. You're going to die! **Die!**

Dad!

12

You can almost *taste* the relief, sweet and cool, as your loved one holds you close.

Not strictly true, Dad!

Don't be afraid, Phil. Daddy's here. Nothing can harm you now.

NOOOOOOOO!

No!
No!

GOOTHAM'S ALWAYS BEEN AN EVIL CITY, BUT NOW IT'S WORSE THAN EVER. SOMEONE BROKE THE MANIACS OUT OF ARKHAM.

CORNELIUS STIRK--FIREFLY--MR. ZSASZ HAVE PLAYED THEIR BLOODY GAMES. AND AS ALWAYS, IT'S THE ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO SUFFER AND DIE.



ACCORDING TO MY ROOMMATE'S BOASTS AT JUVIE HALL, HIS BROTHER'S GANG IS HIDING OUT TWO OF THEM--THE HOOD BROTHERS, PSYCHO-KILLERS BOTH.

TOO MANY, TOO WELL-ARMED FOR ME...

BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON GOTHAM'S SELF-STYLED GUARDIAN.



WHAT THE HELL--?

TEARGAS! COUGH!

TOO BAD! I COULD USE A FIGHT!

NO SIGN OF COPS!

THERE--! THE BATMAN!



SMOKE HIM!

I DON'T SEE NOTHIN'! DID WE GET HIM?

AFRAID NOT, BOYS.

CARE TO TRY AGAIN?

The world is evil. All things must suffer.

Only one man can help you ... The Scarecrow.

I can be your friend.
Obey me, and the
terror will cease.

I can stop the pain.
Obey me, and the
evil will cease.

Blood--guts--ripping flesh. Obey me, and the horror will cease.

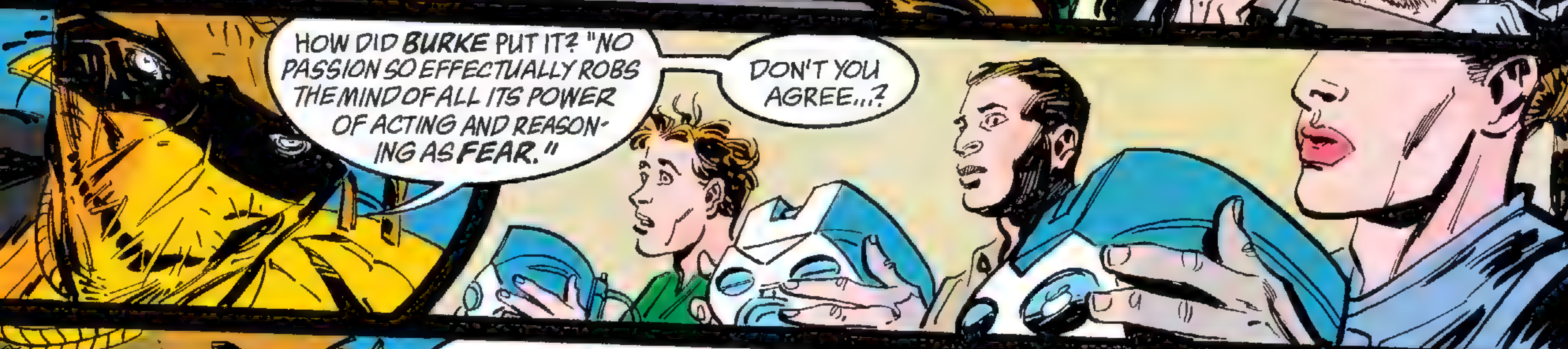
You will pay for your sins in blood and pain.

I am the Scarecrow.

I am your friend
your savior, your
guide. Obey me!
Obey me!

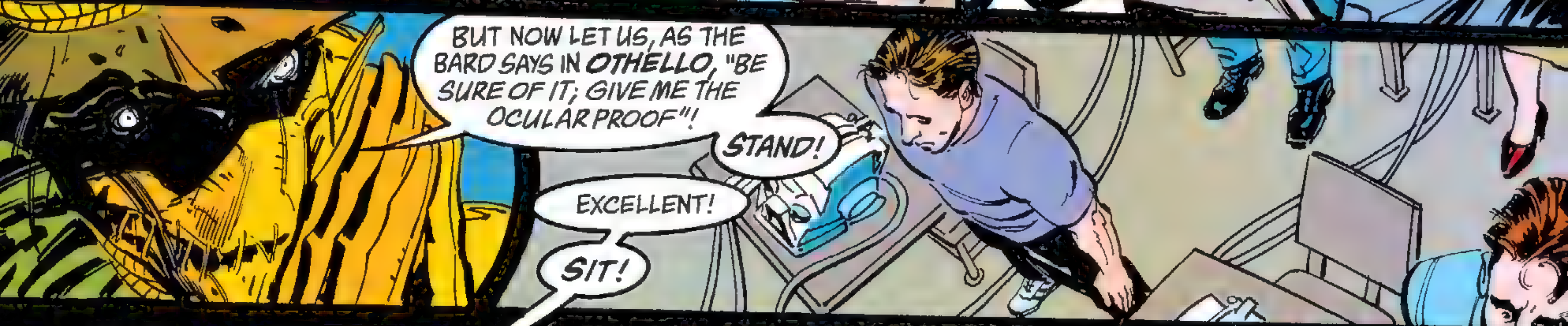


I DECLARE THIS
EXPERIMENT TERMINATED.
YOU MAY REMOVE YOUR
HELMETS!



HOW DID BURKE PUT IT? "NO
PASSION SO EFFECTUALLY ROBS
THE MIND OF ALL ITS POWER
OF ACTING AND REASON-
ING AS FEAR."

DON'T YOU
AGREE...?



BUT NOW LET US, AS THE
BARD SAYS IN *OTHELLO*, "BE
SURE OF IT; GIVE ME THE
OCULAR PROOF!"

STAND!

EXCELLENT!

SIT!



BARK
LIKE
DOGS!

WOOF
WOOF!
GRRRRUFF!
RRRRR
WUFF!
GRR
FF



AND ONE
FINAL TEST.
YOU-- TAKE
THE GUN.



SHOOT
HIM!

YES, YES, I KNOW IT'S
AGAINST ALL TABOOS! BUT
THE OLD ORDER NO LONGER
MATTERS. I AM YOUR
MENTOR NOW-- I,
SCARECROW!

KILL
HIM!

OBEY ME! YOU
MUST OBEY
ME!

BLAM!

THANK YOU,
FRIEND!

NOW, I'D LIKE TWO
VOLUNTEERS TO BRING
IN YOUR COSTUMES
FROM MY VAN--



HE FIGHTS LIKE A MACHINE--
DISARMING THEM FIRST,
TAKING NO CHANCES, REVELLING
IN HIS UNIQUE BLEND OF
ATHLETIC SKILL AND BRUTAL
PHYSICAL POWER.

...AND CRIMINALS.


HE'S A MONUMENT
IN THIS CITY-- SOME-
THING THAT WAS
HERE LONG BEFORE
THERE WERE STREETS
AND BUILDINGS AND...

A comic book panel showing Batman in his blue and grey suit with a yellow utility belt, confronting a man in a purple suit. The man is holding a small device. In the background, a large red structure with a yellow symbol is visible.

SUDDENLY I UNDERSTAND. THE EVIL OF
GOTHAM CITY IS ALL BATMAN'S FAULT!

A comic book panel showing Batman in his blue and grey suit with a yellow utility belt, confronting a man in a red hood. The man is holding a small device. In the background, a large red structure with a yellow symbol is visible.

HE'S SET HIMSELF UP AS A
VIGILANTE ELITE --

A large panel showing Batman in his blue and grey suit with a yellow bat emblem, standing on a rooftop. He is looking down at a crowd of people below. A man in a brown coat is in the foreground, looking up at Batman with a determined expression. Other people are visible on the rooftop and in the background, some looking up in awe or fear. The scene is set in a city with brick buildings.

-- A COSTUMED HERO WHO ISSUES
A CHALLENGE TO ALL:

"GOTHAM IS MY CITY--
TAKE IT IF YOU CAN!"

AND THE MANIACS HAVE ACCEPTED! THE JOKER--
THE VENTRILOQUIST AND SCARFACE--THE HOODS, ZSASZ,
TWO-FACE... ALL OF THEM--THEY ONLY EXIST AS AN
ANSWER TO HIS CHALLENGE!

IT'S LIKE A VEIL HAS
BEEN LIFTED FROM MY
EYES. I SEE CLEARLY
FOR THE FIRST TIME.

BATMAN CREATES HIS OWN VILLAINS. HE IS THE CITY'S TRUE ENEMY!

NOWHERE TO RUN, CREEP!

KLAMP!

WUMP!


AAAAAH!

HIS MOTIVES MAY BE PURE-- HIS INTENTIONS HONORABLE-- BUT HIS GUILT IS UNMISTAKABLE!



THE BATMAN
MUST FALL--


-- AND ANARKY--THE
VOICE OF THE PEOPLE--
MUST BRING HIM DOWN!



MAN HAS
ALWAYS WORSHIPPED
GODS. YOU NAME IT,
AND MANKIND HAS
GIVEN IT A GOD.

THOR, THE GOD OF
THUNDER-- ANUBIS, THE
GOD OF EMBALMING--
ABU, THE SUMERIAN GOD
OF VEGETATION --
GOVANNON, WELSH
RIVER GOD--

THERE ARE GODS OF
WAR AND HEALING--
MOUNTAINS AND MONEY,
FIREPLACES AND
APPLE TREES--




BUT THOUGH I HAVE
SCOURED EVERY TOME IN
MY ANCIENT COLLECTION, I
HAVE FOUND NO MENTION
ANYWHERE OF THE MOST
OBVIOUS GOD OF ALL...

THE GOD
OF FEAR!


I HAVE IT ON GOOD
AUTHORITY-- BEN JONSON'S,
IN FACT-- THAT "T'WAS ONLY
FEAR FIRST IN THE
WORLD MADE GODS."

SO IT IS
FITTING THE VACANCY
BE FILLED--

--AND YOU,
MY RAGGEDY
MINIONS, ARE
GOING TO HELP
ME FILL IT!



APPLE TREES,
I ASK YOU!



DON'T FEEL LEFT OUT, MS. STOPES! YOU TOO WILL HAVE YOUR PART TO PLAY IN THE DRAMATIC CREATION OF THE LIVING GOD OF FEAR!

TAKE THIS. FIND YOURSELF SOMEWHERE SAFE AND OUT OF THE WAY UNTIL TEN O'CLOCK PRECISELY, THEN **RELEASE** IT INTO THE UNIVERSITY AIR INTAKES.

WILL YOU DO THAT?

YES.

THEN OFF YOU GO, DEAR LADY!

YOU OTHERS-- WALK THIS WAY!

ALL ABOARD, MY STRAW-HEADED SLAVES! TONIGHT WE REWRITE HISTORY--AS WE **HALT** THE **FLIGHT** FROM RELIGION--

--AND INSTALL A BRAND NEW GOD OF FEAR!

HRRAA000!
HRRAAIIII!

NEXT

I, SCARECROW!



NO 17 LATE SEP 93
PART TWO OF THREE

KNIGHTFALL™

BATMAN®



SHADOW OF THE BAT

THE GOD OF FEAR

BY ALAN GRANT & BRET BLEVINS





Cover art by
BRIAN STELFREEZE

ALAN GRANT

Writer

BRET BLEVINS

Penciller

ADRIENNE ROY

Colorist

TODD KLEIN

Letterer



I DON'T UNDERSTAND...?

SHAKESPEARE--
"MACBETH." BUT DON'T
YOU WORRY ABOUT
IT, MY TEENAGED
ZOMBIE!

YOUR
TARGET LIES
THERE--

--AND YOU STRIKE AT TEN
PRECISELY. ALLOW NO ONE
TO INTERFERE. GOT THAT?

YES.

NOT YOU, MY FRIEND!
YOU INTRIGUE ME.

YOU SAY
I KILLED YOUR
FATHER...?

ANSWER! YOU
DARE NOT DISOBEY
MY FEAR-INDUCED
CONDITIONING!

It's like my mind is
split in two. There's a
tiny part unaffected,
calmly observing
everything in this
insane nightmare--

While the rest of me recoils in terror from the menace of his words.

Y-Y-YES.
YOU K-KILLED MY
DAD. P-P-PAUL
HEROLD!

HEROLD...?
THE ANTIQUARIAN
BOOK HEROLD?

OF COURSE! HE WAS
MY VERY FIRST VICTIM...
SHOT AT CLOSE RANGE,
IF I RECALL!

WHY, MY BOY,
THIS MAKES YOU
OF HISTORICAL
IMPORTANCE!

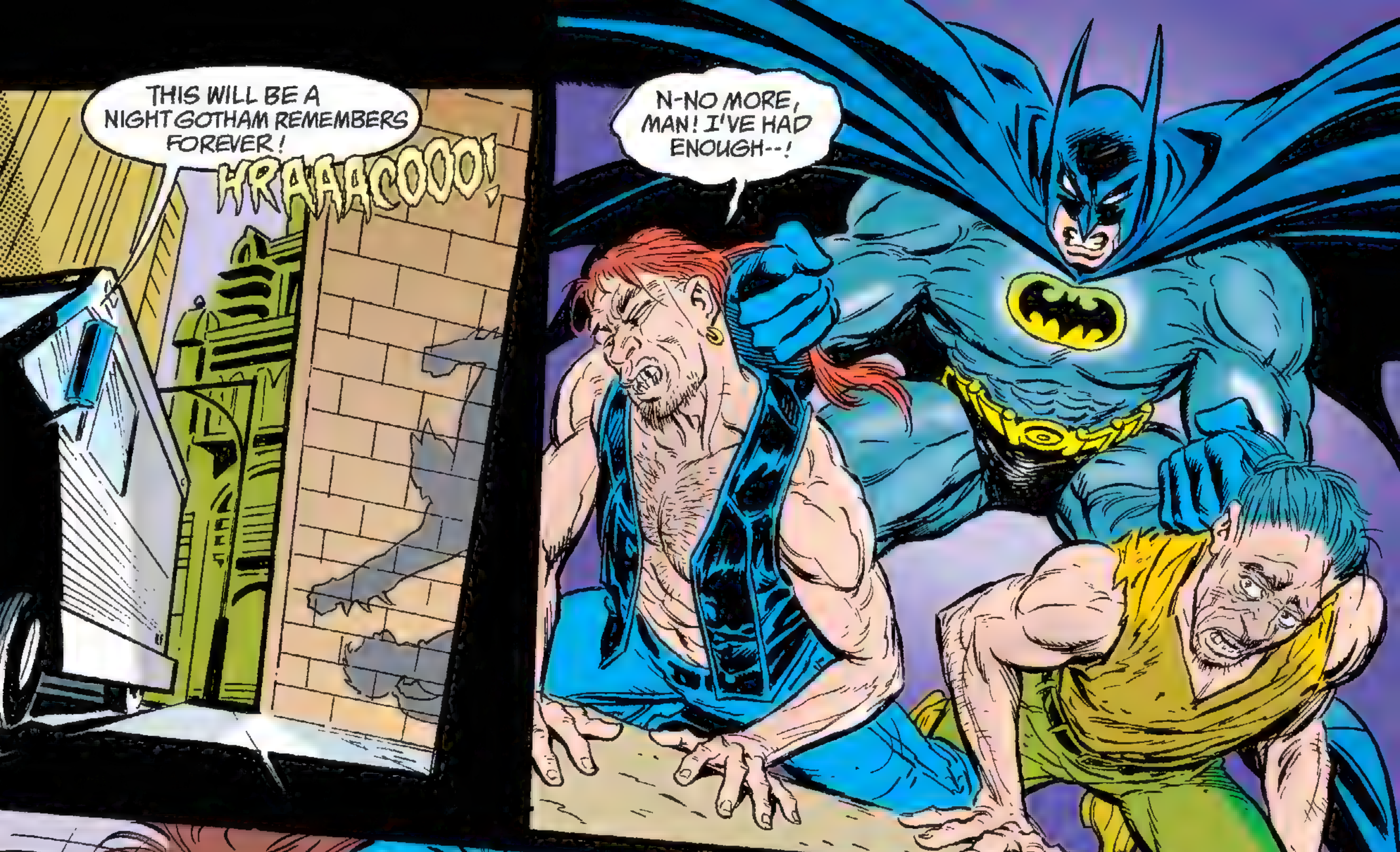
I ALWAYS MEANT TO
STEAL HIS COLLECTION--
HE HAD SOME RARE TOMES--
BUT I WAS JUST SO BUSY
AFTER THE MURDER!

YOU
INHERITED, I
SUPPOSE...?

NEVER LOOK A GIFT HORSE,
I ALWAYS SAY! WE'LL GO THERE
NOW!

WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR? GO
ON--QUIET
INTO THAT
DARK
NIGHT!

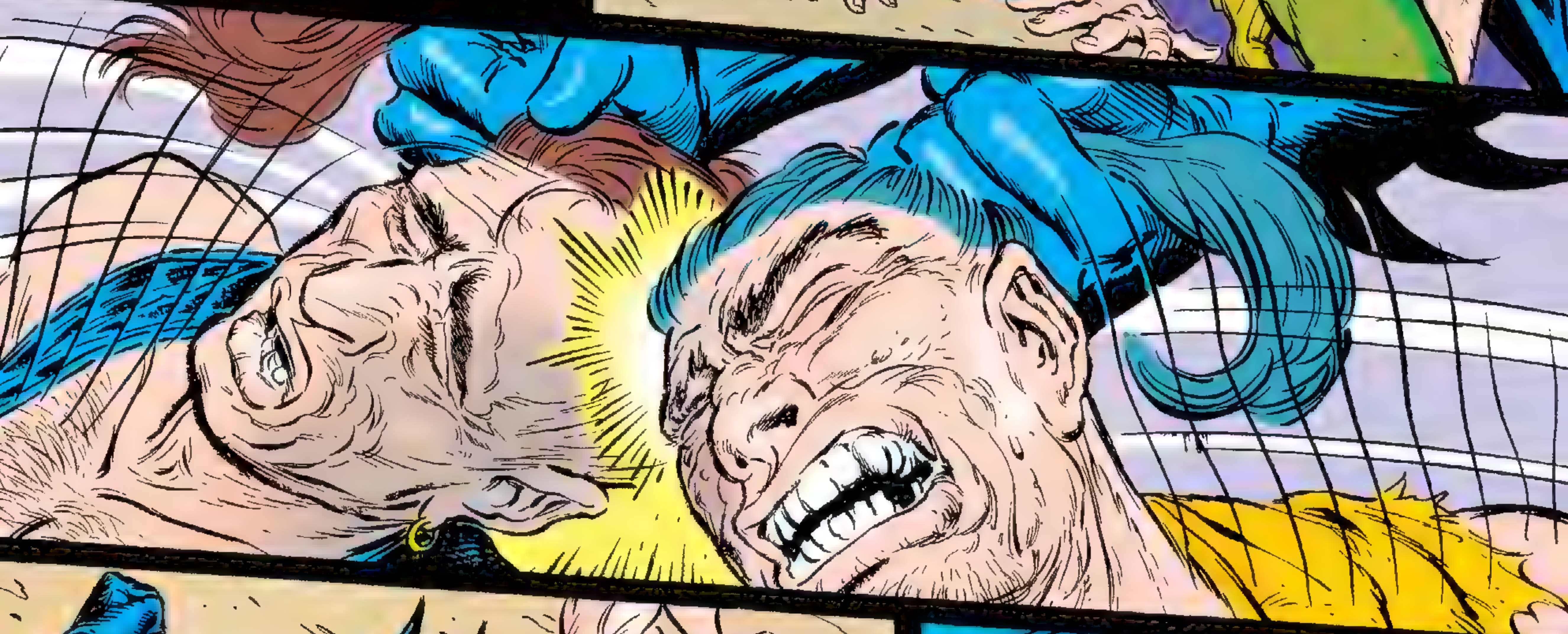
FATE HAS CAST
US TWO TOGETHER,
BOY--



THIS WILL BE A
NIGHT GOTHAM REMEMBERS
FOREVER!

HRAAACOOO!

N-NO MORE,
MAN! I'VE HAD
ENOUGH--!

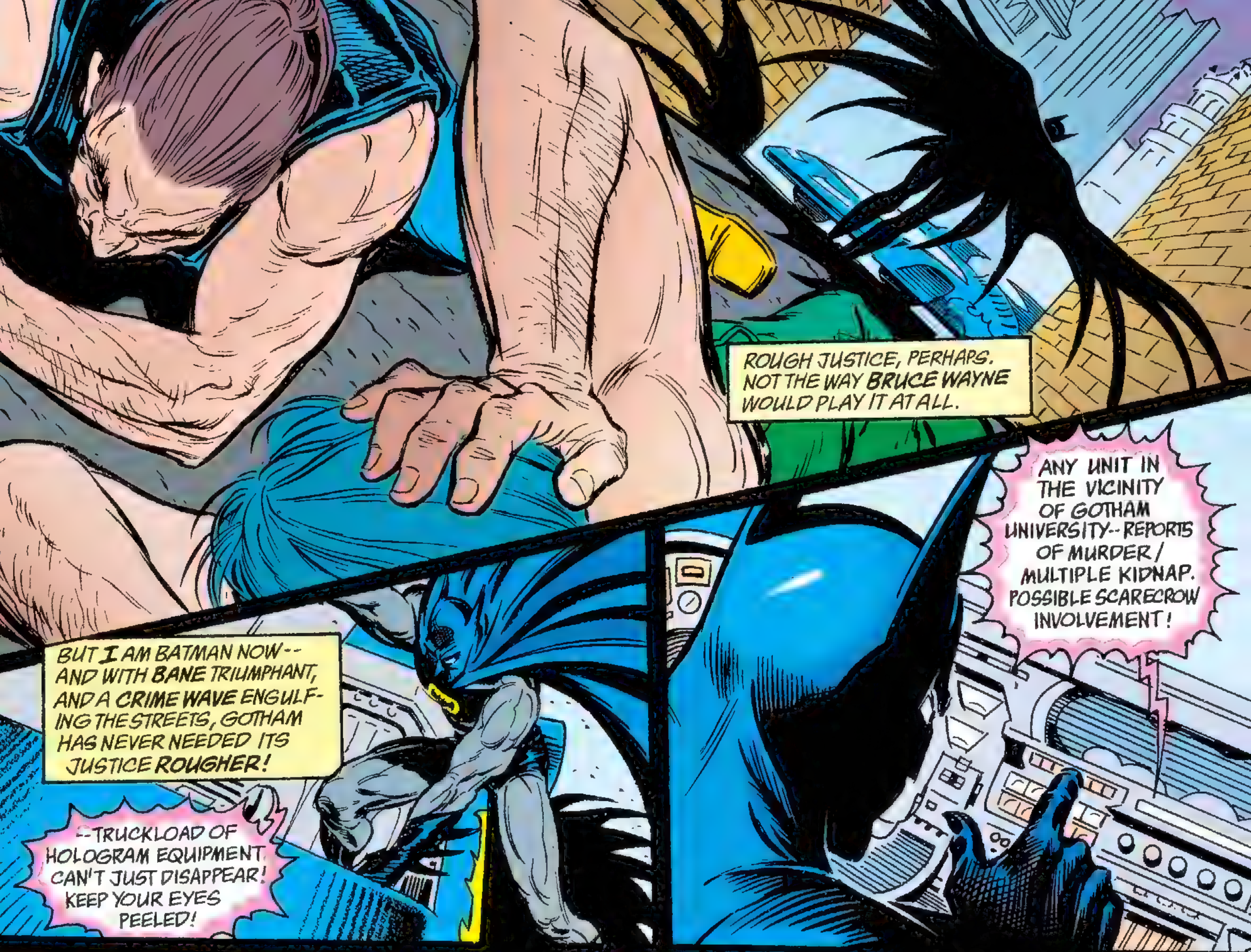


NOW, I DON'T
CARE IF THE POLICE GET
YOU OR NOT. THIS IS MY
PERSONAL WARNING--

--IF I SEE EITHER
OF YOU ON THE STREETS
AFTER DARK IN THE NEXT
MONTH, YOU GET THE
SAME AGAIN--



--WHETHER YOU'VE
DONE ANYTHING WRONG
OR NOT!

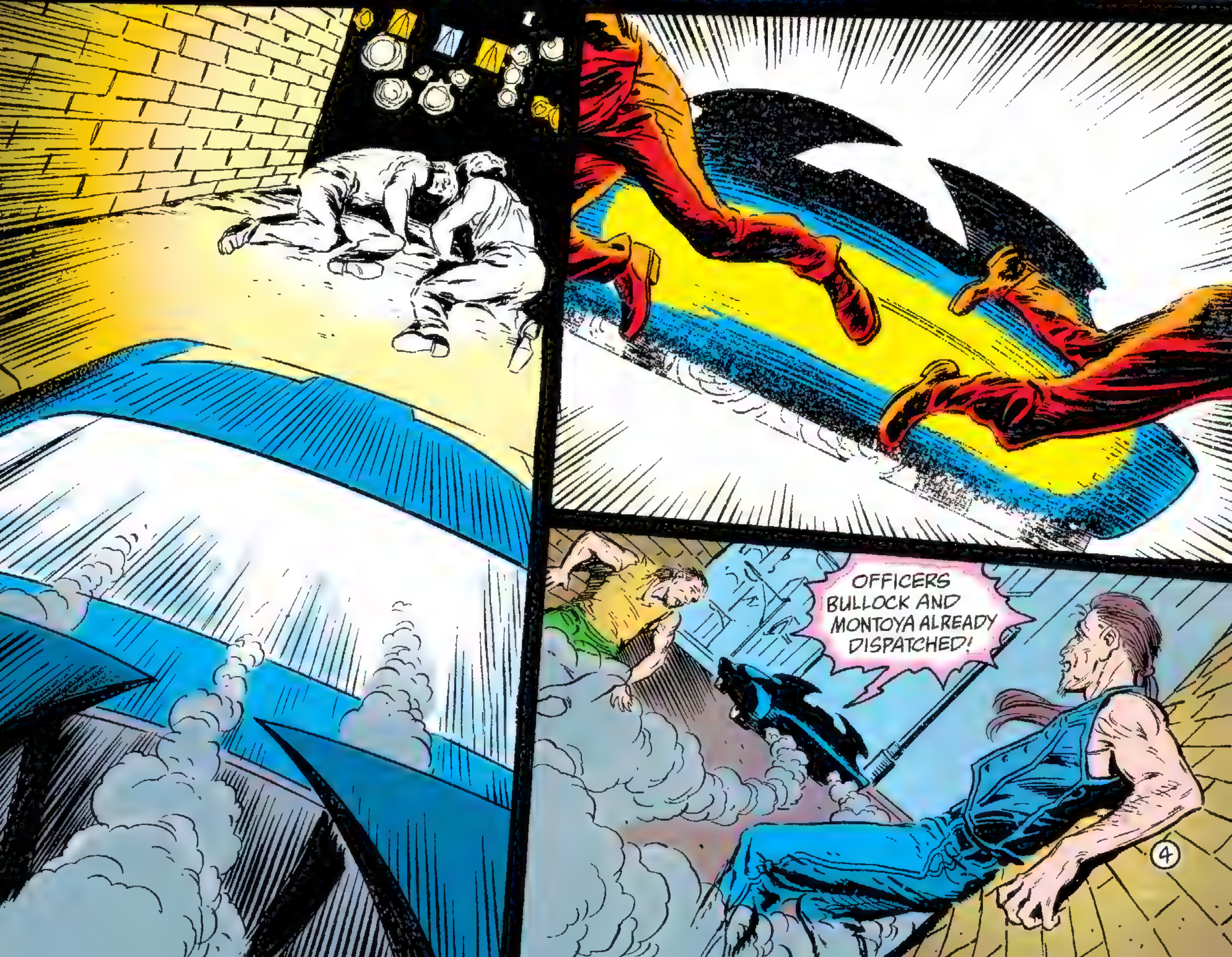


ROUGH JUSTICE, PERHAPS.
NOT THE WAY **BRUCE WAYNE**
WOULD PLAY IT AT ALL.

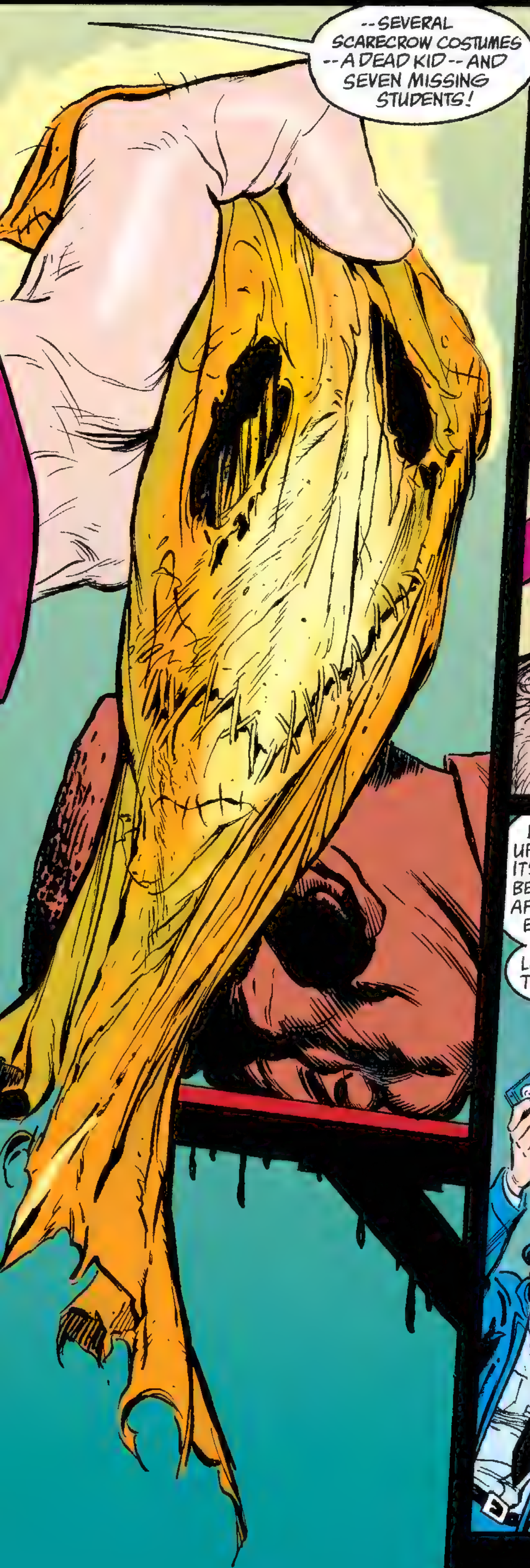
BUT I AM **BATMAN** NOW--
AND WITH **BANE** TRIUMPHANT,
AND A CRIME WAVE ENGULF-
ING THE STREETS, GOTHAM
HAS NEVER NEEDED ITS
JUSTICE ROUGHER!

ANY UNIT IN
THE VICINITY
OF GOTHAM
UNIVERSITY-- REPORTS
OF MURDER/
MULTIPLE KIDNAP.
POSSIBLE SCARECROW
INVOLVEMENT!

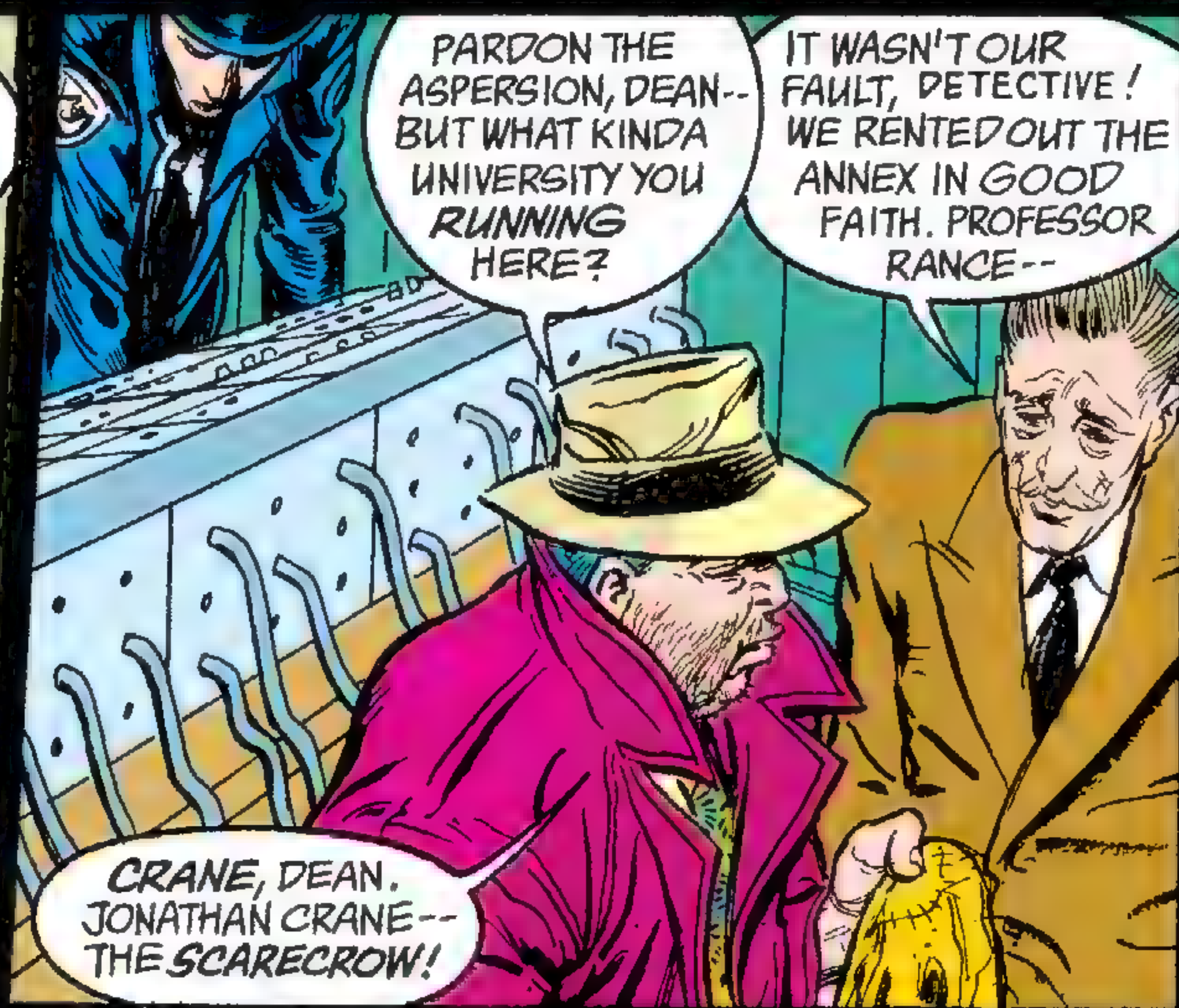
--TRUCKLOAD OF
HOLOGRAM EQUIPMENT
CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR!
KEEP YOUR EYES
PEELED!



OFFICERS
BULLOCK AND
MONTOKYA ALREADY
DISPATCHED!



--SEVERAL
SCARECROW COSTUMES
--A DEAD KID-- AND
SEVEN MISSING
STUDENTS!



PARDON THE
ASPERSION, DEAN--
BUT WHAT KINDA
UNIVERSITY YOU
RUNNING
HERE?

IT WASN'T OUR
FAULT, DETECTIVE!
WE RENTED OUT THE
ANNEX IN GOOD
FAITH. PROFESSOR
RANCE--

CRANE, DEAN.
JONATHAN CRANE--
THE SCARECROW!

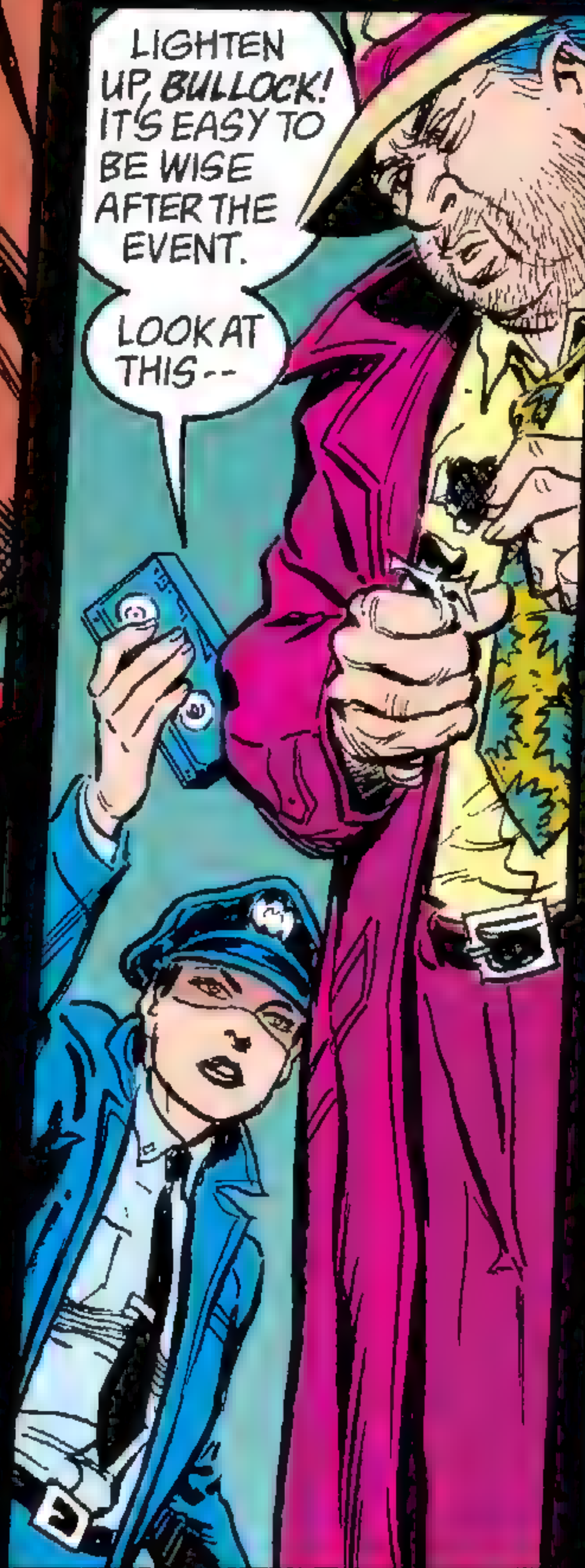


YOU DIDN'T
EVEN CHECK
ON HIM!

THAT
WAS MS. STOPES'
RESPONSIBILITY--

SHE
AROUND?

ER, I FEAR
SHE'S MISSING,
TOO!



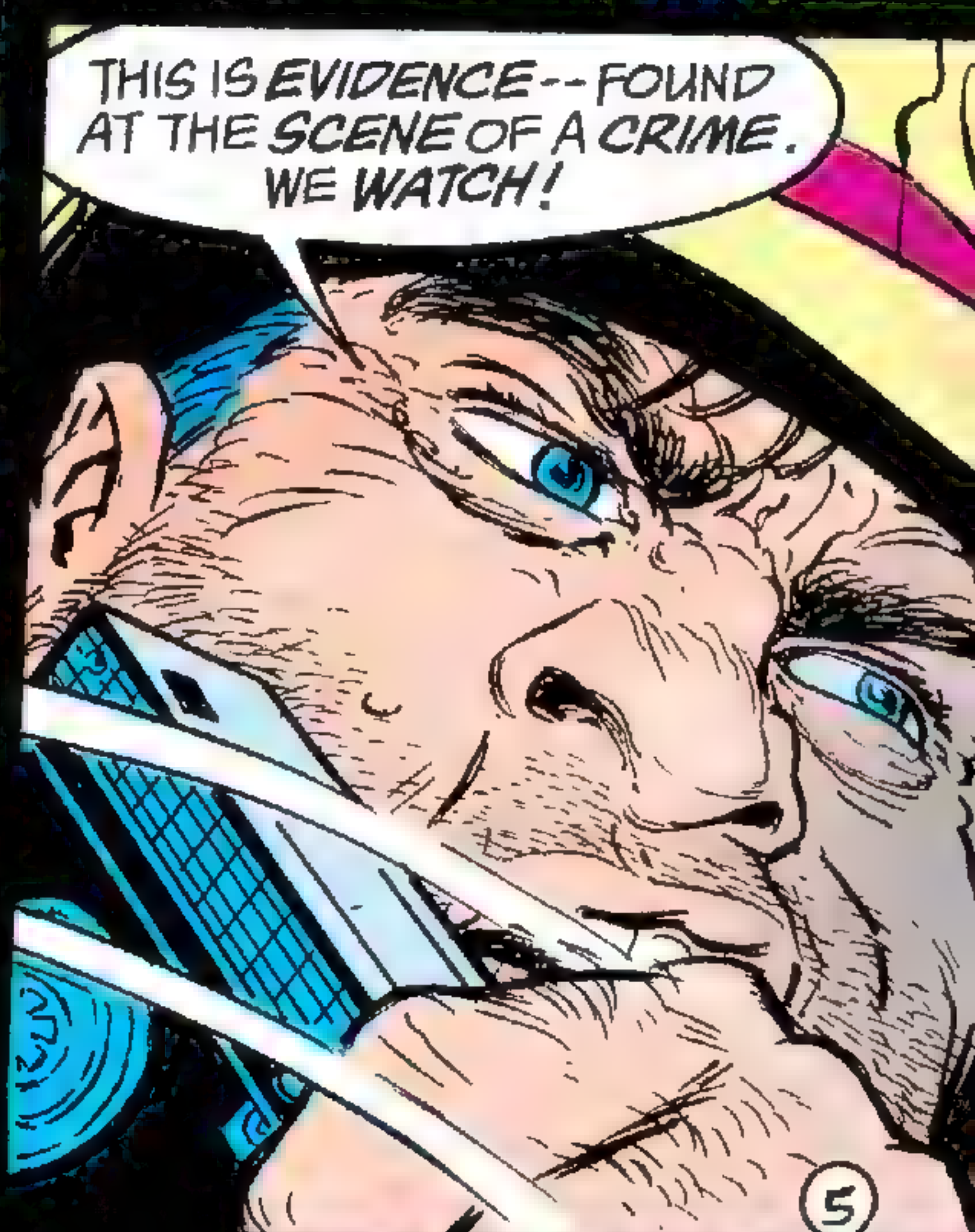
LIGHTEN
UP, BULLOCK!
IT'S EASY TO
BE WISE
AFTER THE
EVENT.

LOOK AT
THIS--



A MESSAGE?

NOT
FOR US.



THIS IS EVIDENCE-- FOUND
AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME.
WE WATCH!

WHERE THE
HECK'S OUR BACK-
UP? AND THE
MEDS?

CITY'S GOING
WILD. EVERYBODY'S
STRETCHED!

GREETINGS,
BATMAN!

YO
YOURSELF,
FRUIT-
CAKE!

I'VE READ
THAT THE PRESENT
PARLOUS STATE
OF WORLD AFFAIRS
MAY BE A DIRECT
RESULT OF MANKIND'S
LONG SLOW DRIFT
AWAY FROM
RELIGION.

I INTEND
TO RECTIFY
THAT SORRY
FACT.

BEWARE...FOR
TONIGHT THE **GOD**
OF FEAR STALKS
GOTHAM CITY!

BEFORE THE
NIGHT IS OVER, A
MILLION VOICES
WILL SING MY PRAISE--
A MILLION KNEES BEND
IN HOMAGE--A MILLION
SCREAMS BEG ME TO
RELEASE THEM FROM
MY AWFUL REIGN
OF TERROR.

CHEEZ!
FRUITCAKE
AIN'T THE HALF
OF IT WHERE
THAT CREEP'S
CONCERNED!

TAPE SEEMS
TO BE STUCK--



WHAT THE
HECK--?

DOWN!
GET
DOWN!

VA-DAMM!

MAGNESIUM-
BASED BOOBY-
TRAP. MEANT
FOR ME.

HEY, POINT
TAKEN! NEXT
TIME I JUST
PASS THE
MESSAGE
ON!

THAT'S ONE WE OWE YOU. IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING--

GET ME A LIST OF THE MISSING STUDENTS. LET ME KNOW IF FORENSIC COMES UP WITH ANY LEADS--

--THOUGH I'D BET THEY WON'T!

GOD OF FEAR? THAT'S A NEW ANGLE FOR HIM.

WHATEVER HIS PLAN, IT SOUNDS BIG. WAYNE SAID I CAN'T GO AFTER BANE...

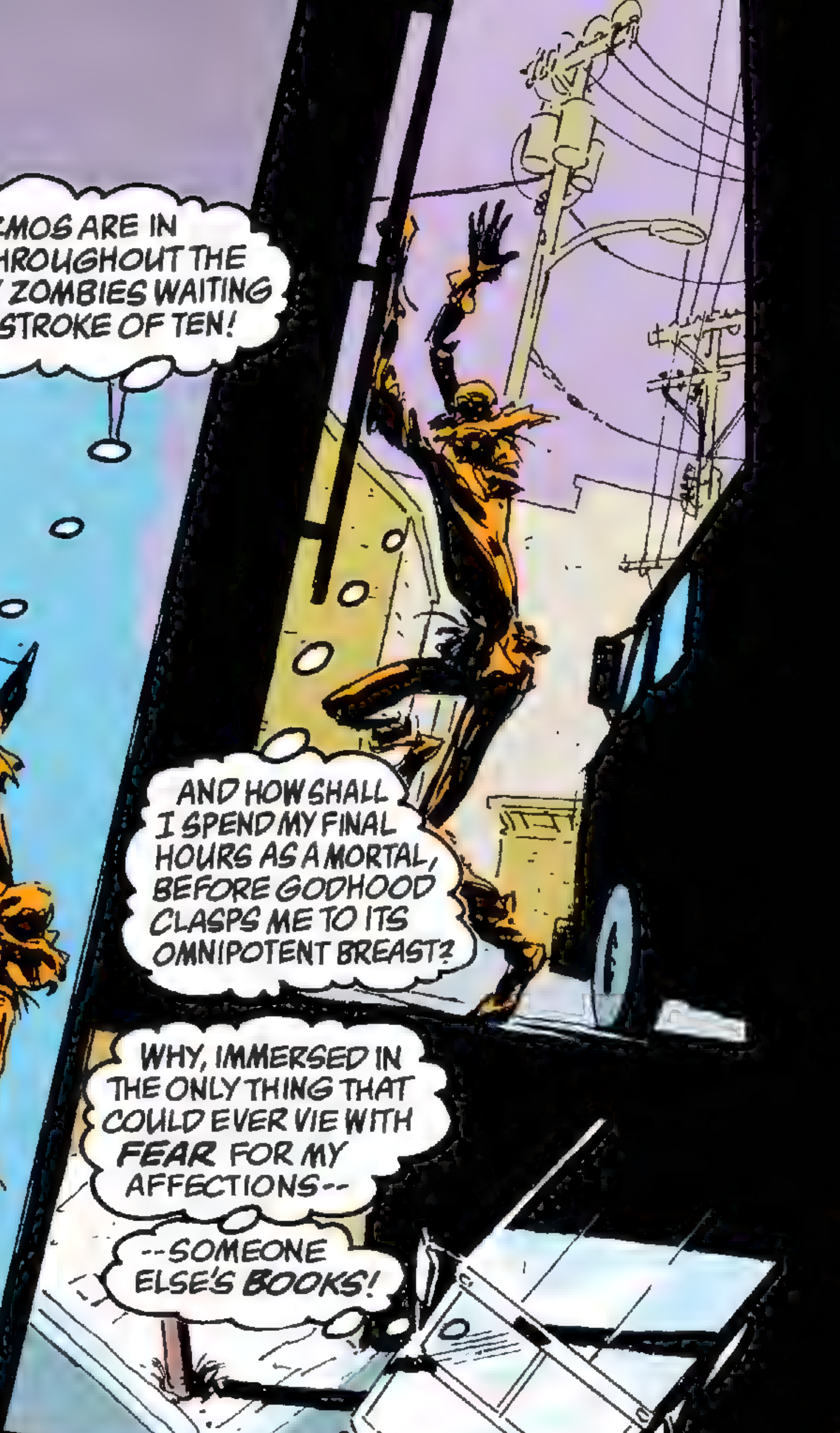
...BUT NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT NOT MESSING UP THE SCARECROW!

HRAAQQQ!
HRAIIII!



WOOPS! BUT "SILENCE
IS THE PERFECTEST
HERALD," AS THE BARD
SO RIGHTLY POINTED
OUT!

MY GIZMOS ARE IN
PLACE THROUGHOUT THE
CITY-- MY ZOMBIES WAITING
FOR THE STROKE OF TEN!

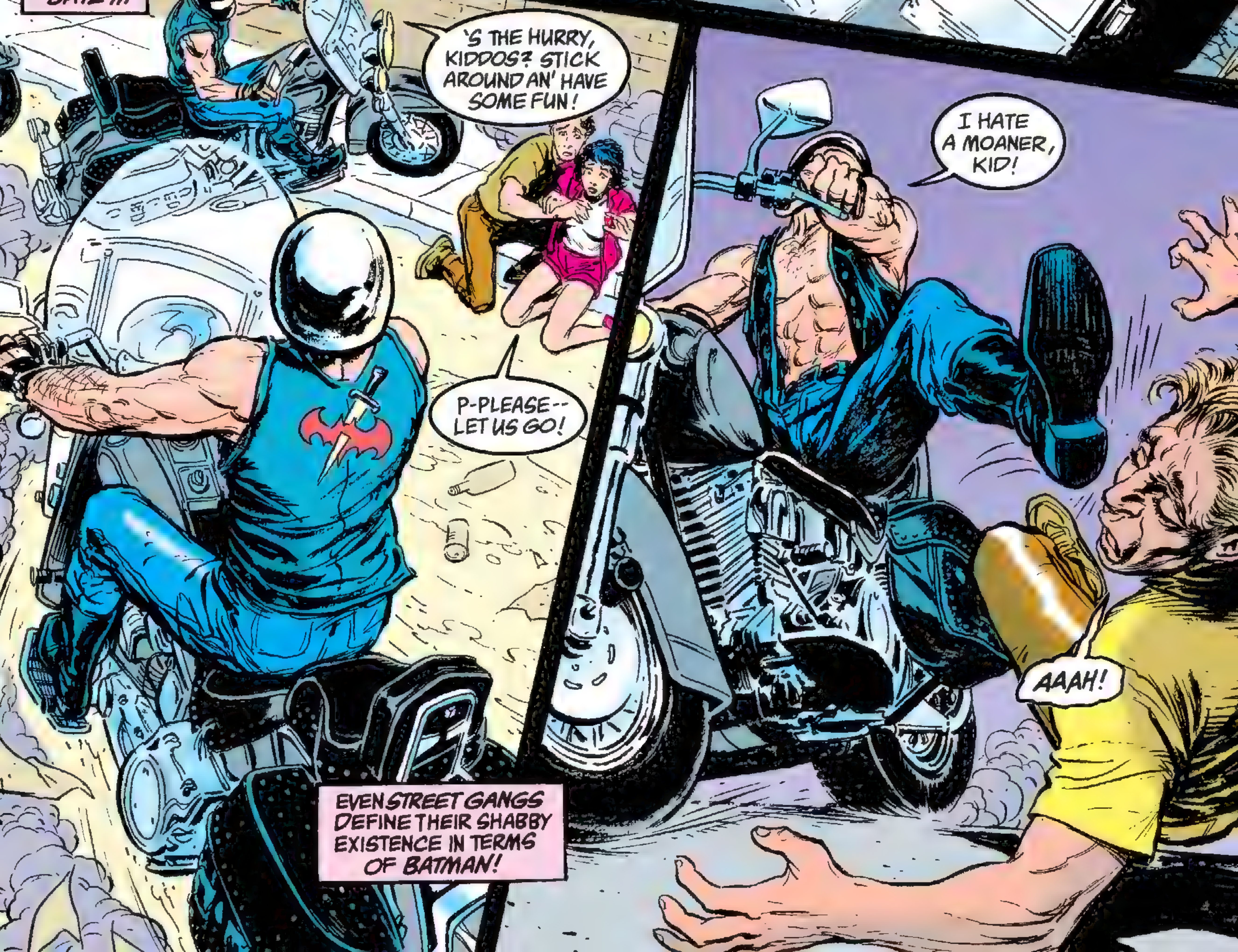


AND HOW SHALL
I SPEND MY FINAL
HOURS AS A MORTAL,
BEFORE GODHOOD
CLASPS ME TO ITS
OMNIPOTENT BREAST?

WHY, IMMERSED IN
THE ONLY THING THAT
COULD EVER VIE WITH
FEAR FOR MY
AFFECTIONS--

--SOMEONE
ELSE'S BOOKS!

THE ANTI-
BATZ ...



'S THE HURRY,
KIDDOS? STICK
AROUND AN' HAVE
SOME FUN!

P-PLEASE--
LET US GO!

EVEN STREET GANGS
DEFINE THEIR SHABBY
EXISTENCE IN TERMS
OF BATMAN!

I HATE
A MOANER,
KID!

AAAH!

I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT
EVERY DAY SINCE THE LAST
TIME THEY CAUGHT ME.
BUT THERE'S NO POINT
RISKING MYSELF--

TWANNING!

-- WHEN
THE LINE OF LEAST
RESISTANCE--

THUDD

AAAHH!

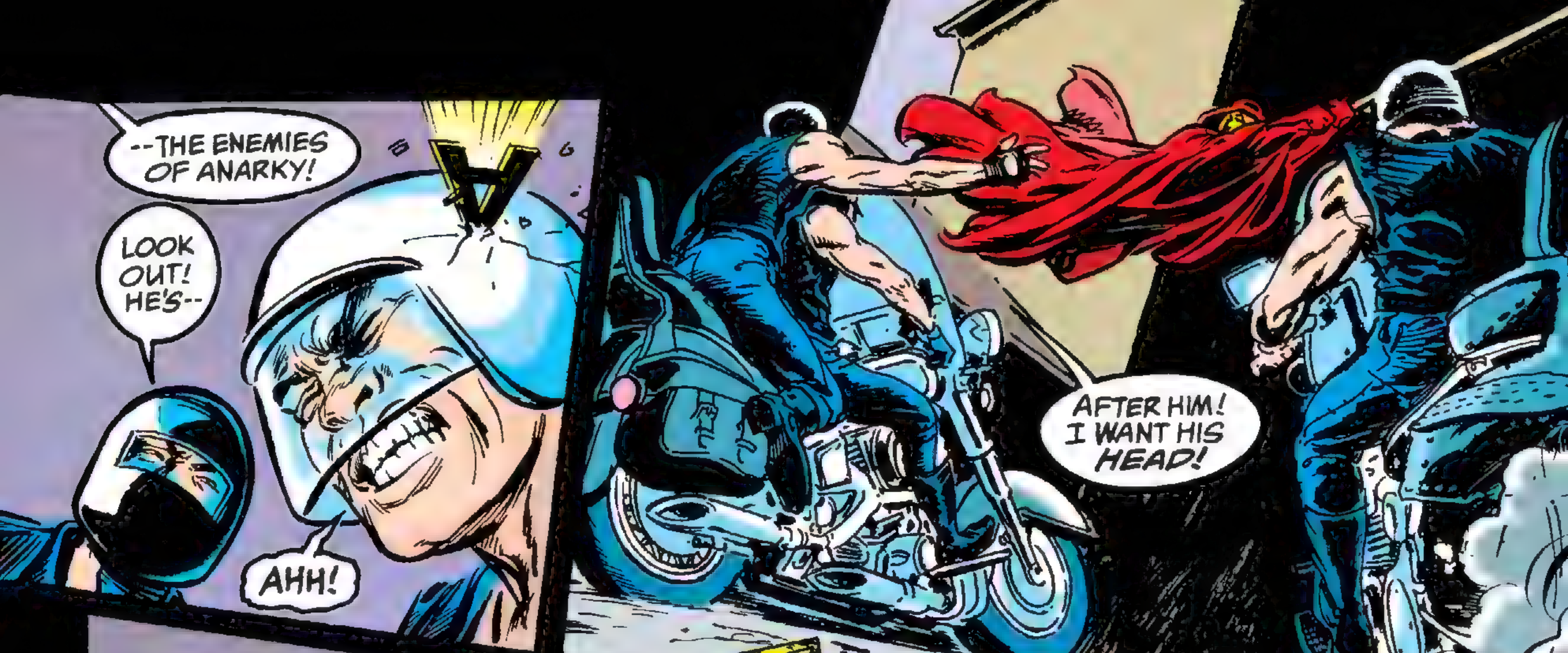
-- IS THE LIKELIEST
ROAD TO SUCCESS.

LIKE TO TRY TO
INTIMIDATE
ME...?

HEY, YOU'RE
ANARKY, AIN'TCHA?
WHAT'S YER GRIPE
WITH US? I HEARD
IT WAS THE LAW
YER AGAINST!

I'M AGAINST ANYTHING
THAT'S AGAINST PEOPLE!

CRUELTY--BRUTALITY--
EXPLOITATION... THESE ARE
THE ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE--



I ONLY EVER
HAD TWO LOVES IN
MY LIFE-- FEAR, OF
COURSE, AND
BOOKS!

ESPECIALLY ANCIENT
BOOKS... SCHOLARLY TOMES
THAT DEFY TIME, PASSING
THEIR WISDOM DOWN THE
YEARS...!

CONTEMPORARY
EUROPEAN
MEDIAEVAL
CHILDREN'S
ANCIENT
ROOF GARDEN

OH PRECIOUS WORDS!
MOST POTENT LETTERS!
TRULY, AS BACON TELLS US,
"KNOWLEDGE ITSELF IS
POWER!"

FEEL THE PARCHMENT...
THE MUZZLE-SOFT LEATHER...
SMELL THAT MUSTY, DUSTY
ODOR...!

He's crazy!

And I can't do
anything except
stand here!

BOOKS CAUSED YOUR
FATHER'S DEATH, YOU KNOW.
INDIRECTLY, AT LEAST. THE
ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH
WAS STUPIDITY. WANT TO
HEAR ABOUT IT?

Y-Y-Y-YES.



FIRST, LET'S GET RID OF THAT IRRITATING STUTTER. A LEGACY OF HIS TRAUMATIC DEATH, NO DOUBT?

Y-YES.

THEN STOP IT.

I C-CAN'T!

VERY WELL. I... OBEY.

EXCELLENT! SETTLE DOWN AND I'LL TELL YOU A STORY...

VERY OFTEN AN INCIDENT IN CHILDHOOD SUGGESTS THE SORT OF PERSON THE CHILD WILL BE WHEN HE GROWS UP. SUCH WAS THE CASE WITH JONATHAN CRANE.

"AS A SMALL BOY, I LIKED TO FRIGHTEN BIRDS!"

"AS I GREW, MY PASSIONS FOR CAUSING FEAR AND BOOKS INTER-TWINED. I STUDIED EVIL, TERROR, MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN--"

"--AND, NATURALLY, I BECAME A PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY--"

WELCOME TO GOTHAM U., PROFESSOR CRANE! WE HOPE YOUR TENURE HERE WILL BE A LONG AND HAPPY ONE.

THANK YOU. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--



"I HIRED MYSELF TO A BUSINESS-MAN NAMED KENDRICK--

PAUL HEROLD! YOU WERE TOLD TO WITHDRAW YOUR LAWSUIT AGAINST YOUR EX-PARTNER KENDRICK!

I WON'T BE INTIMIDATED! KENDRICK CHEATED ME, AND I SHALL GET SATISFACTION IN COURT!

"I COULD SMELL THE FEAR ON HIM LIKE A TANGIBLE THING. FOR AN INSTANT I SAVORED IT, TASTED IT THE WAY ANOTHER MAN MIGHT SAMPLE MARMALADE--

FOOL! YOU'RE TERRIFIED! OBEY ME-- OR DIE!

I MAY BE AFRAID--BUT I HAVE PRINCIPLES!

--THEN REPAID HIS STUPIDITY IN LEAD!"

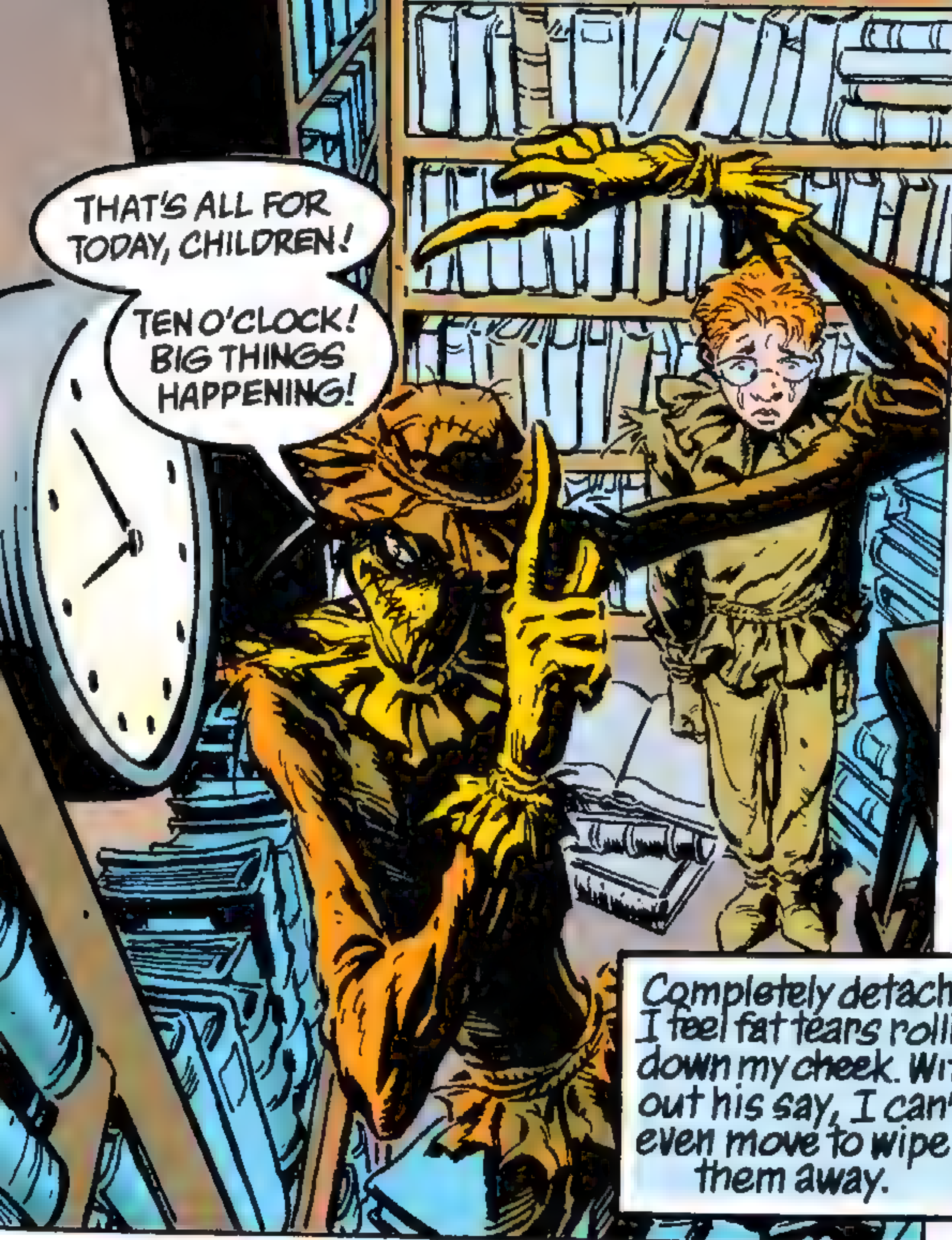
THE SCARECROW WARNS ONLY ONCE!

"I'D NEVER HURT ANYONE BEFORE, LET ALONE KILLED A MAN. IT WAS LIKE FRIGHTENING BIRDS..."

"...ONLY A MILLION TIMES BETTER!"

DADDY...? I HEARD A NOISE.

D-DADDY...?



THAT'S ALL FOR
TODAY, CHILDREN!

TEN O'CLOCK!
BIG THINGS
HAPPENING!

Completely detached,
I feel fat tears rolling
down my cheek. With-
out his say, I can't
even move to wipe
them away.

My poor father...
murdered for his
principles.

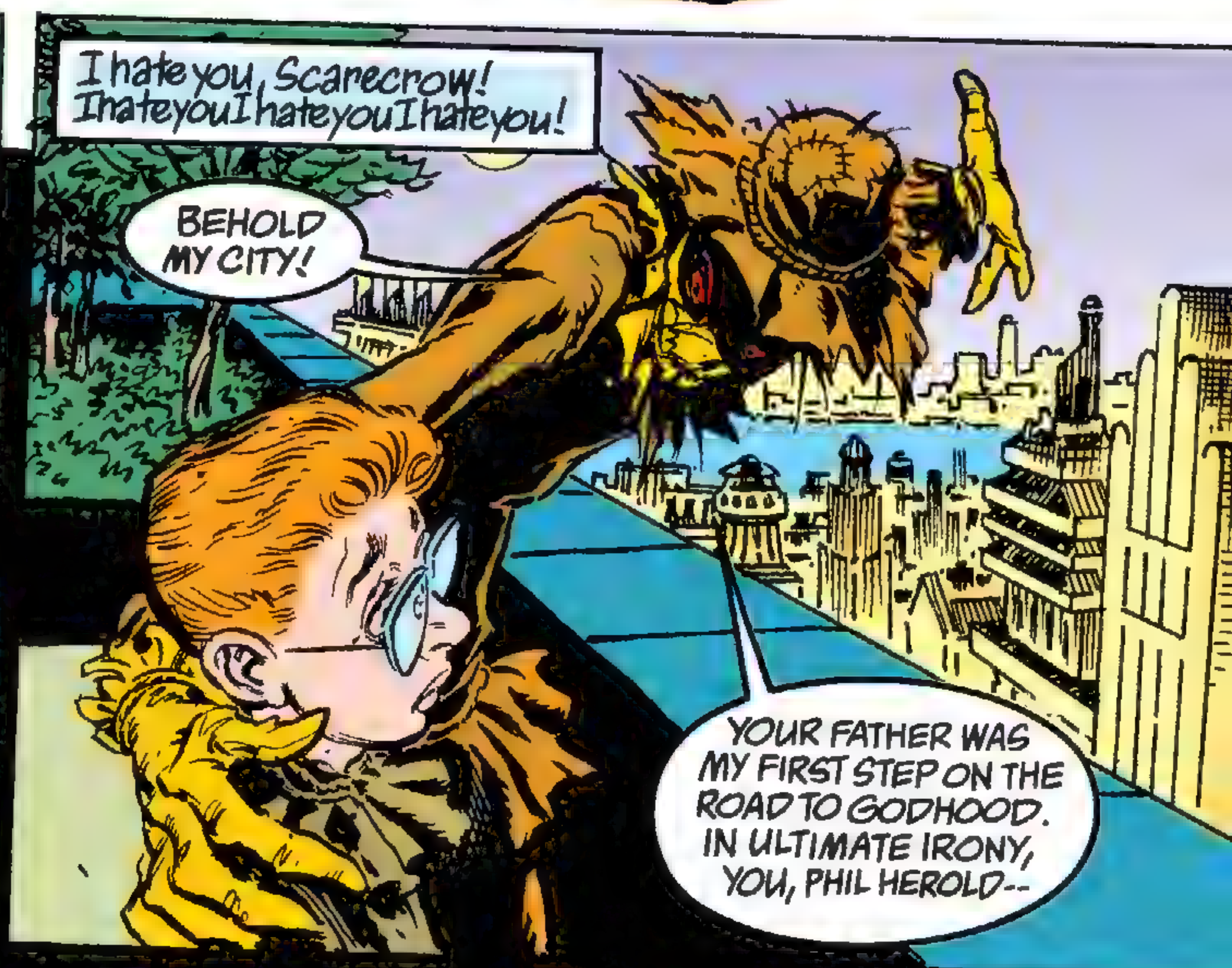


FOLLOW
ME! A
GRAND-
STAND
VIEW IS
REQUIRED!



And I never
even got to
say "good-
bye!"

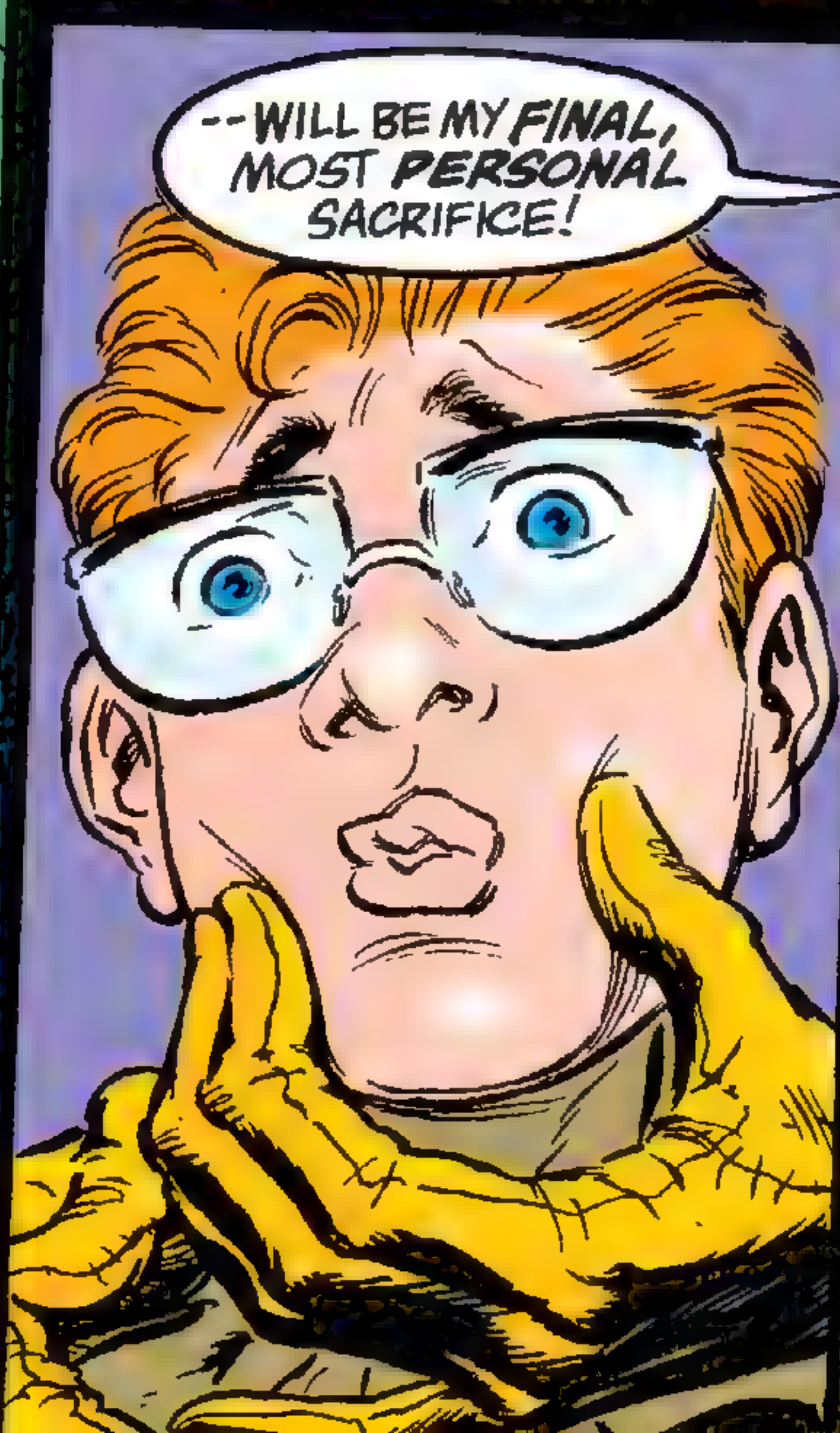
"COME
INTO THE
GARDEN,
MAUD!"



I hate you, Scarecrow!
I hate you I hate you I hate you!

BEHOLD
MY CITY!

YOUR FATHER WAS
MY FIRST STEP ON THE
ROAD TO GODHOOD.
IN ULTIMATE IRONY,
YOU, PHIL HEROLD--

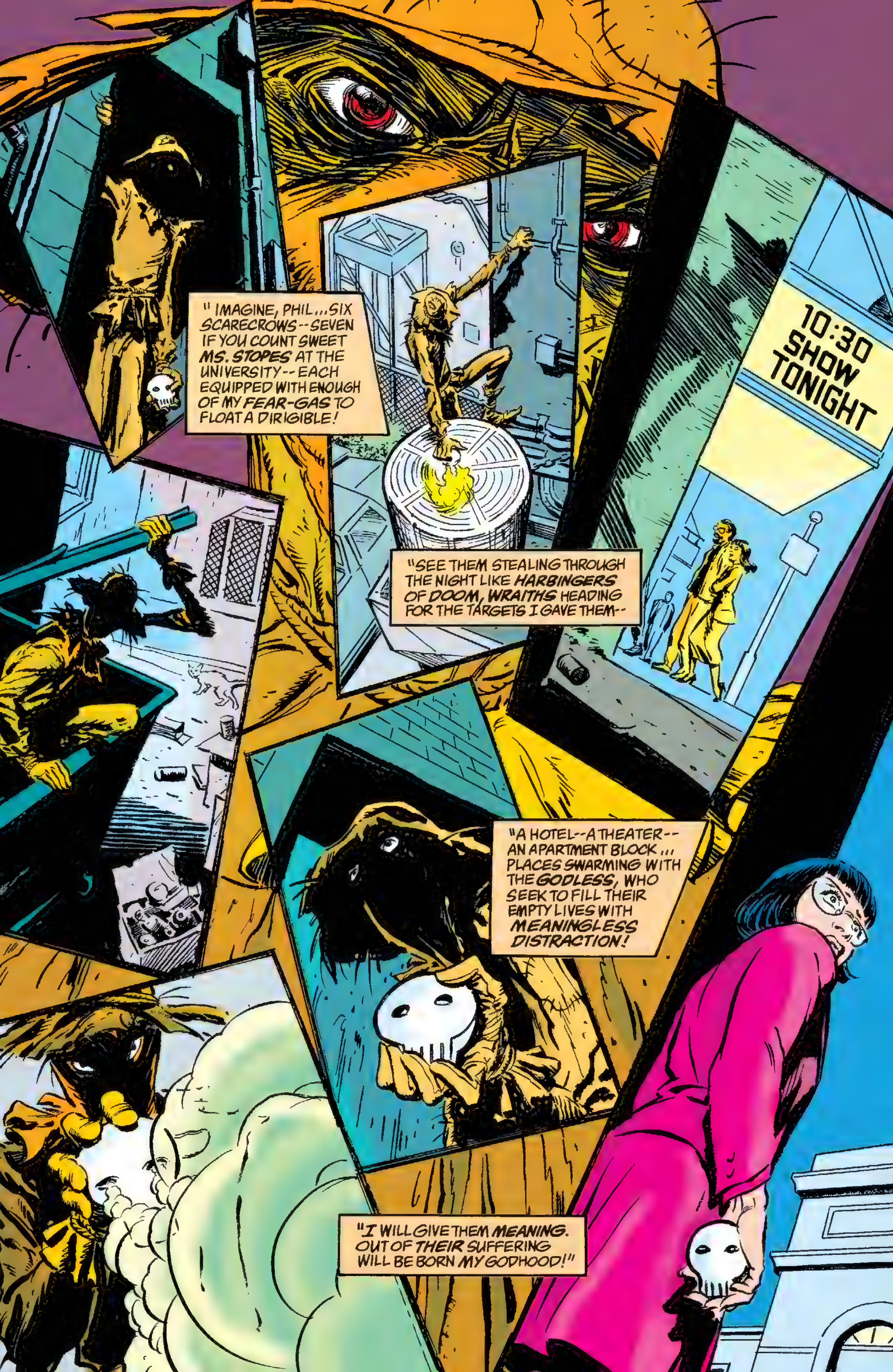


--WILL BE MY FINAL,
MOST PERSONAL
SACRIFICE!



CHEER UP, BOY!
CHEER UP! THERE'S
A GOOD TIME COMING!

EVEN IF
IT'S NOT FOR
YOU!

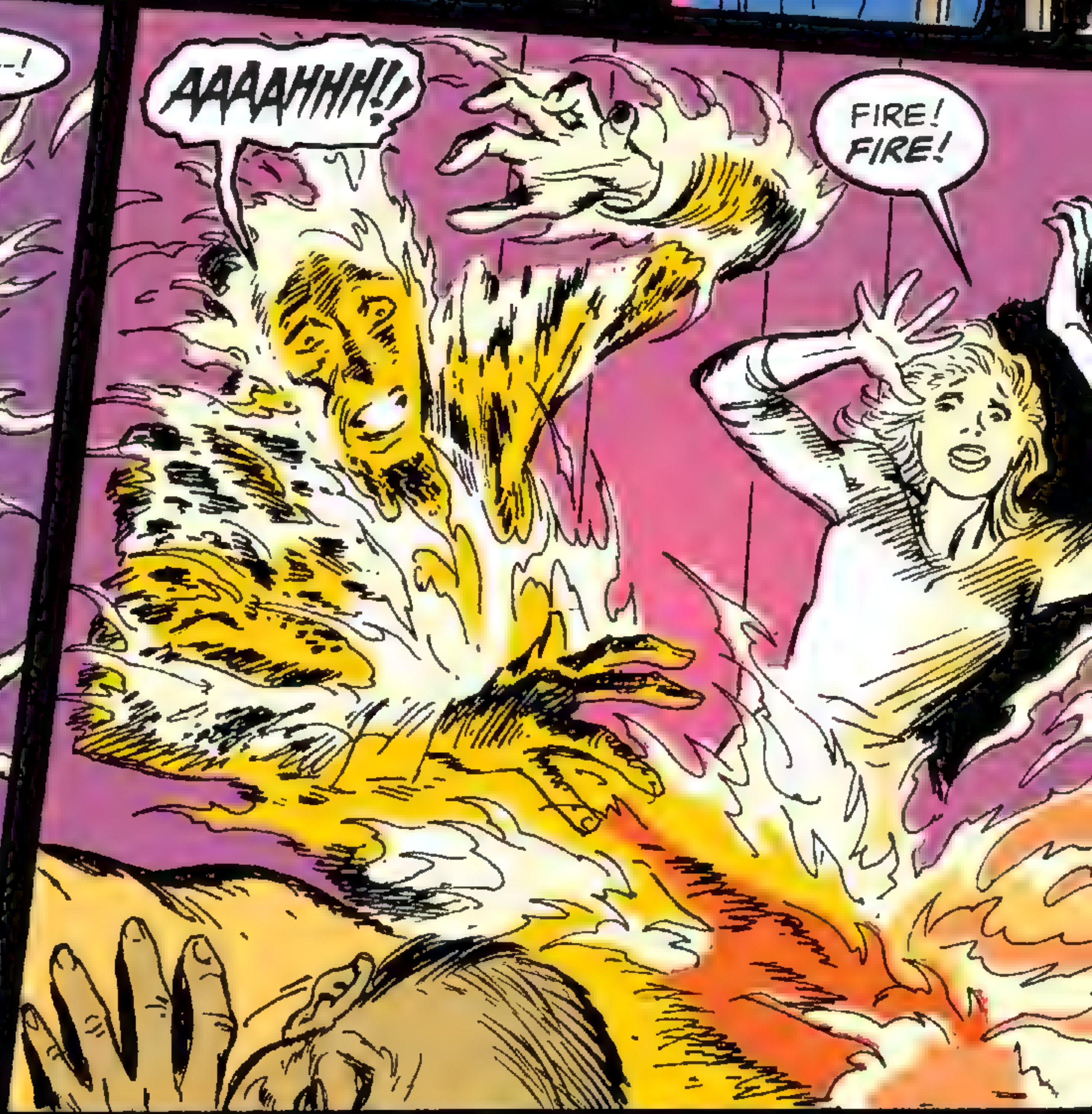
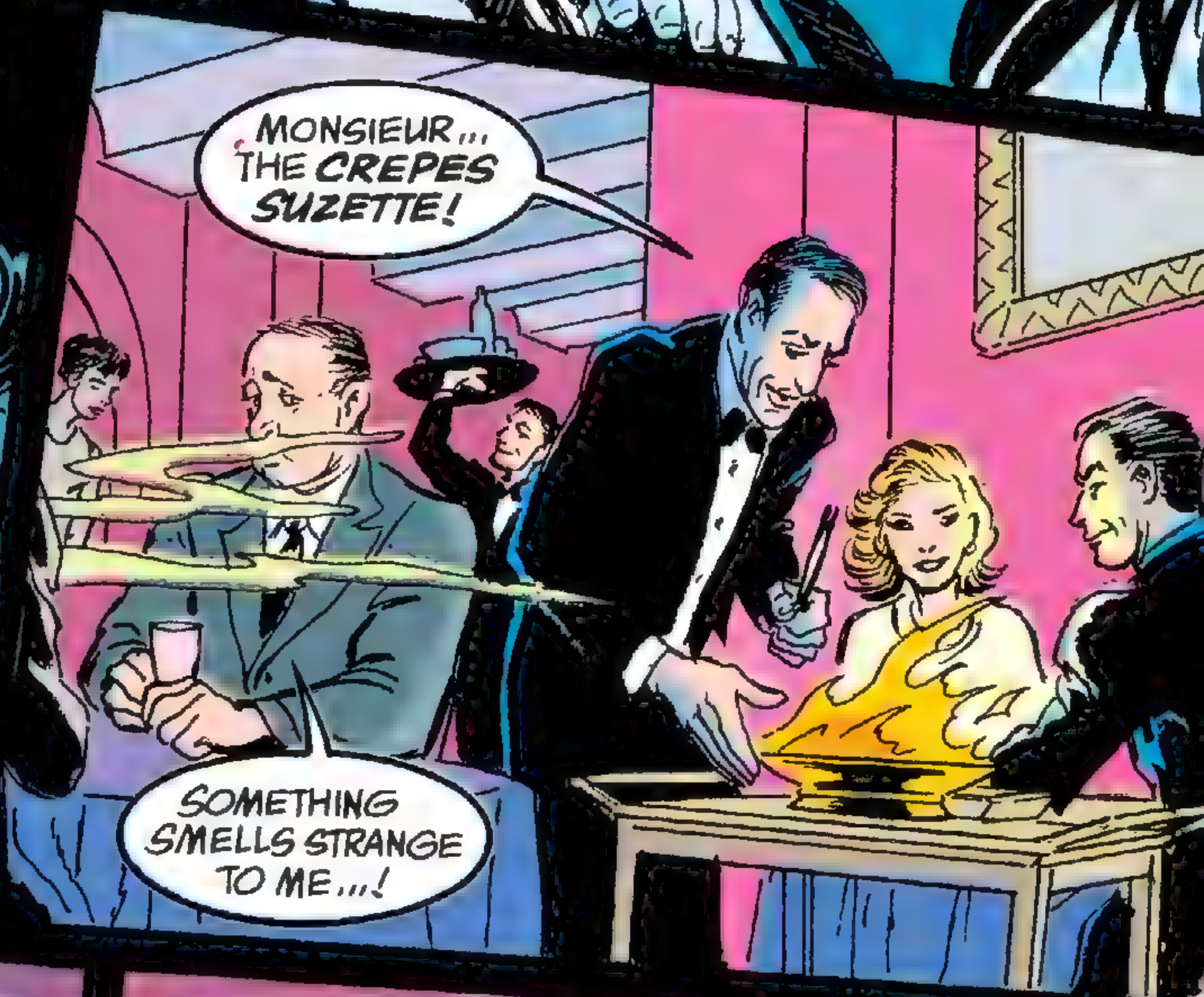
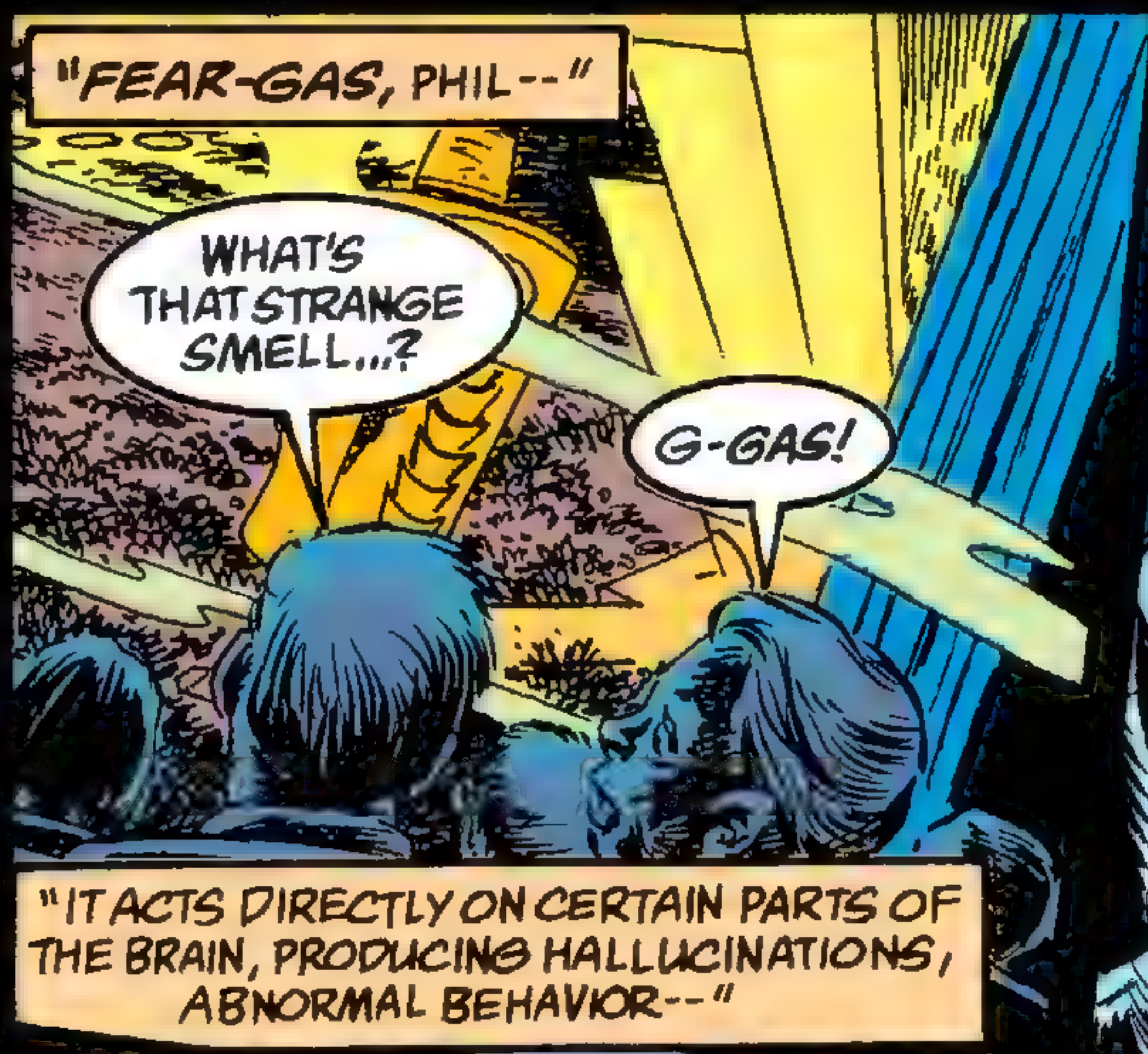


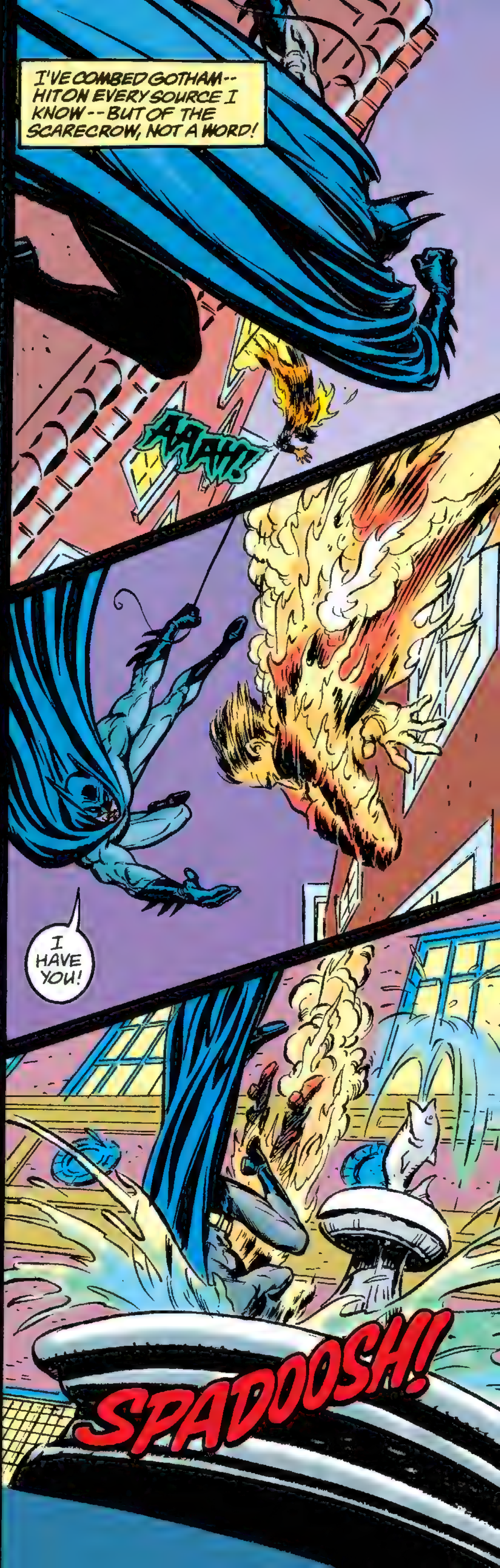
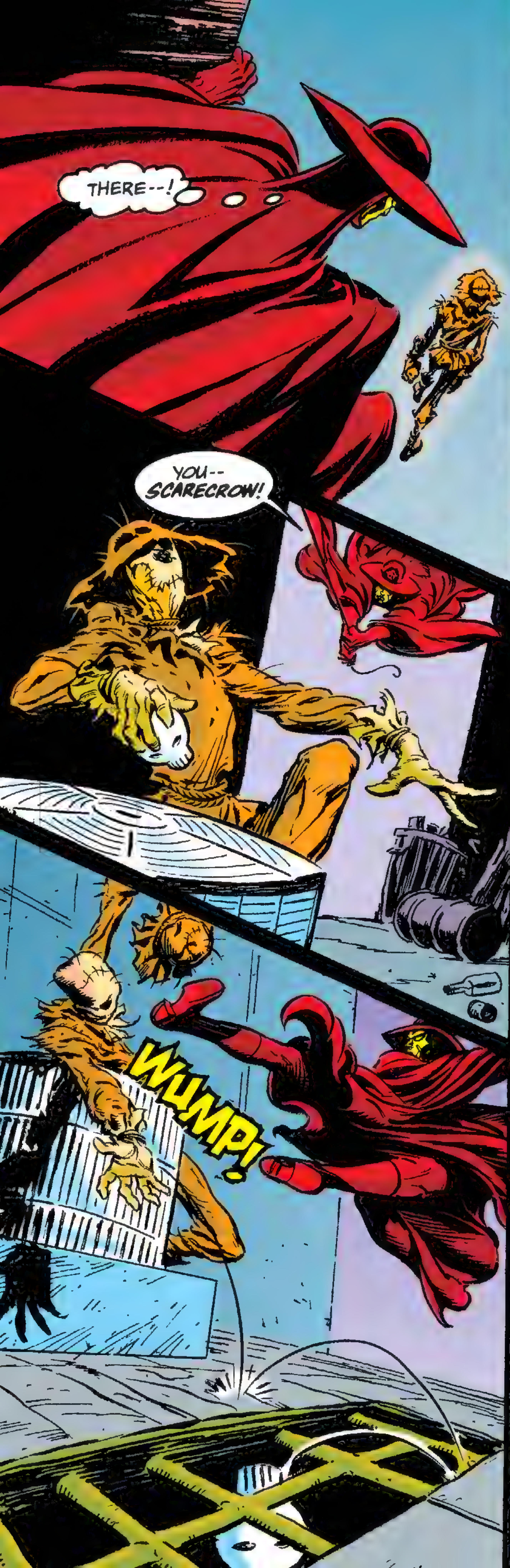
"IMAGINE, PHIL...SIX
SCARECROWS--SEVEN
IF YOU COUNT SWEET
MS. STOPE'S AT THE
UNIVERSITY-- EACH
EQUIPPED WITH ENOUGH
OF MY FEAR-GAS TO
FLOAT A DIRIGIBLE!

"SEE THEM STEALING THROUGH
THE NIGHT LIKE HARBINGERS
OF DOOM, WRAITHS HEADING
FOR THE TARGETS I GAVE THEM--

"A HOTEL--A THEATER--
AN APARTMENT BLOCK...
PLACES SWARMING WITH
THE GODLESS, WHO
SEEK TO FILL THEIR
EMPTY LIVES WITH
MEANINGLESS
DISTRACTION!

"I WILL GIVE THEM MEANING.
OUT OF THEIR SUFFERING
WILL BE BORN MY GODHOOD!"





I'VE COMBED GOTHAM--
HIT ON EVERY SOURCE I
KNOW-- BUT OF THE
SCARECROW, NOT A WORD!

THERE--!

YOU--
SCARECROW!

I
HAVE
YOU!

WUMPI!

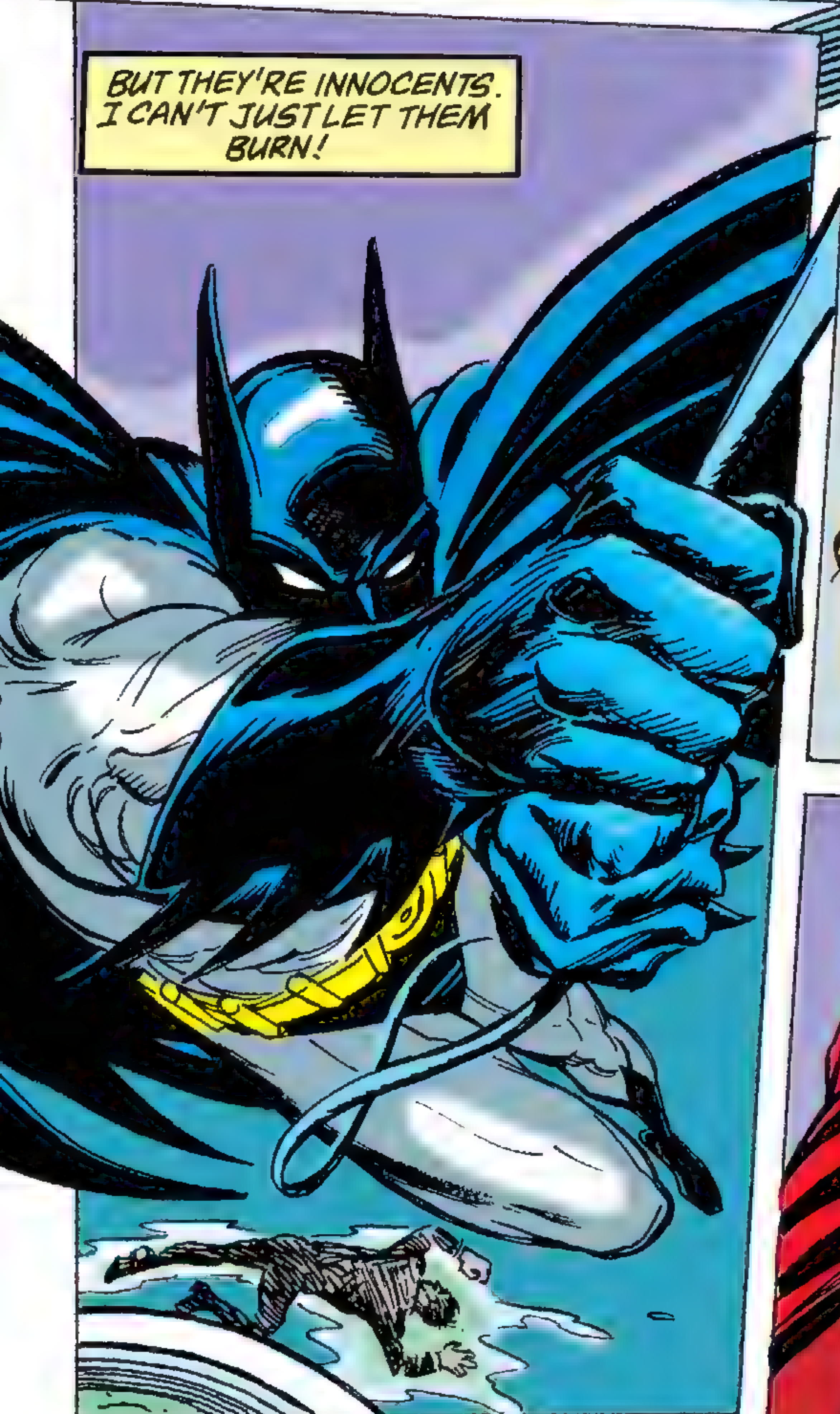
SPADOOSH!



DON'T JUST STAND THERE! CALL AN AMBULANCE-- AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!



NOT EXACTLY HOW I WANT TO SPEND MY NIGHT--



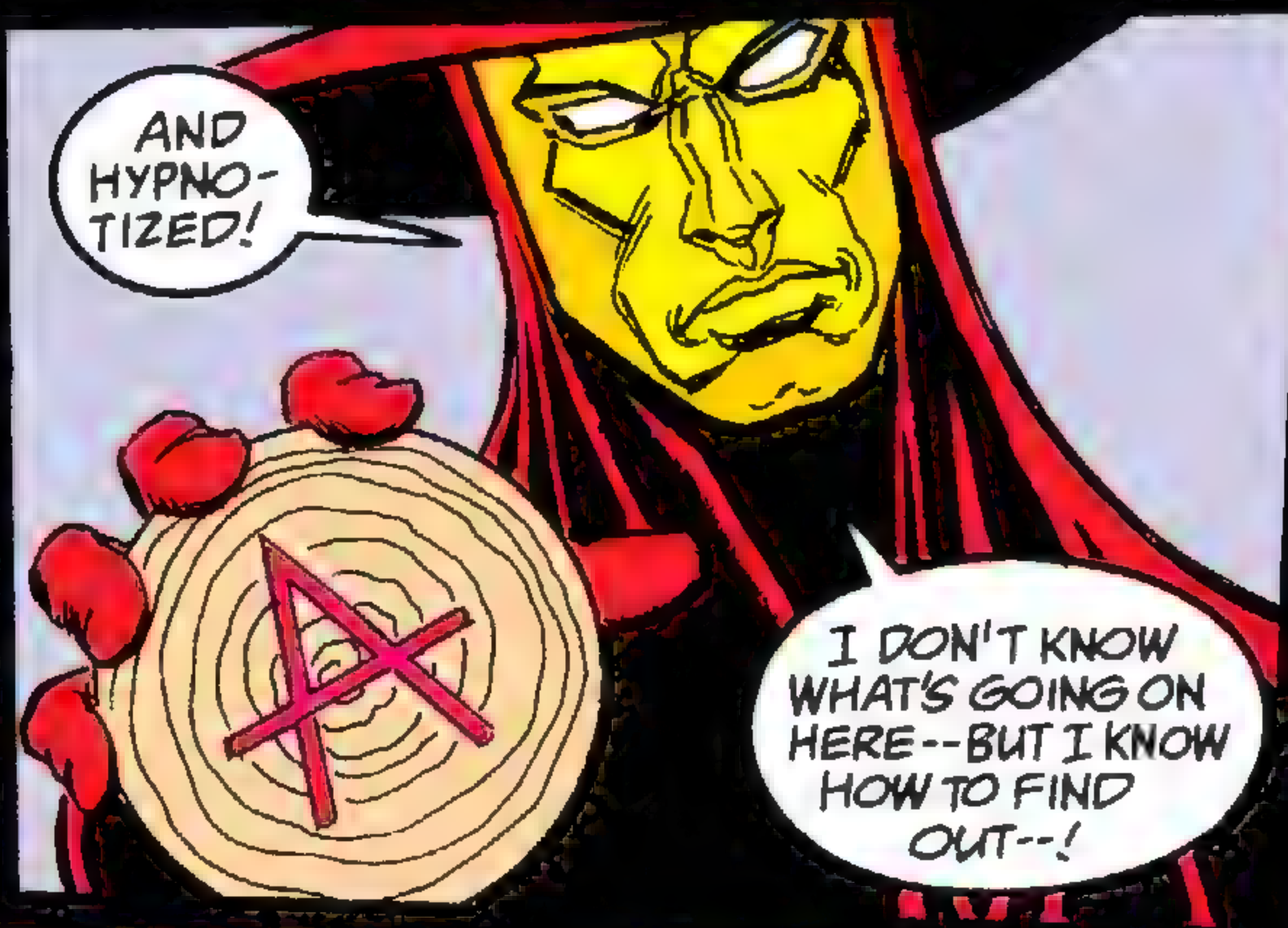
BUT THEY'RE INNOCENTS. I CAN'T JUST LET THEM BURN!



PROFESSOR JONATHAN CRANE, IF I REMEMBER THE POLICE FILES I HACKED INTO, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SAYS YOU ARE BUSTED!

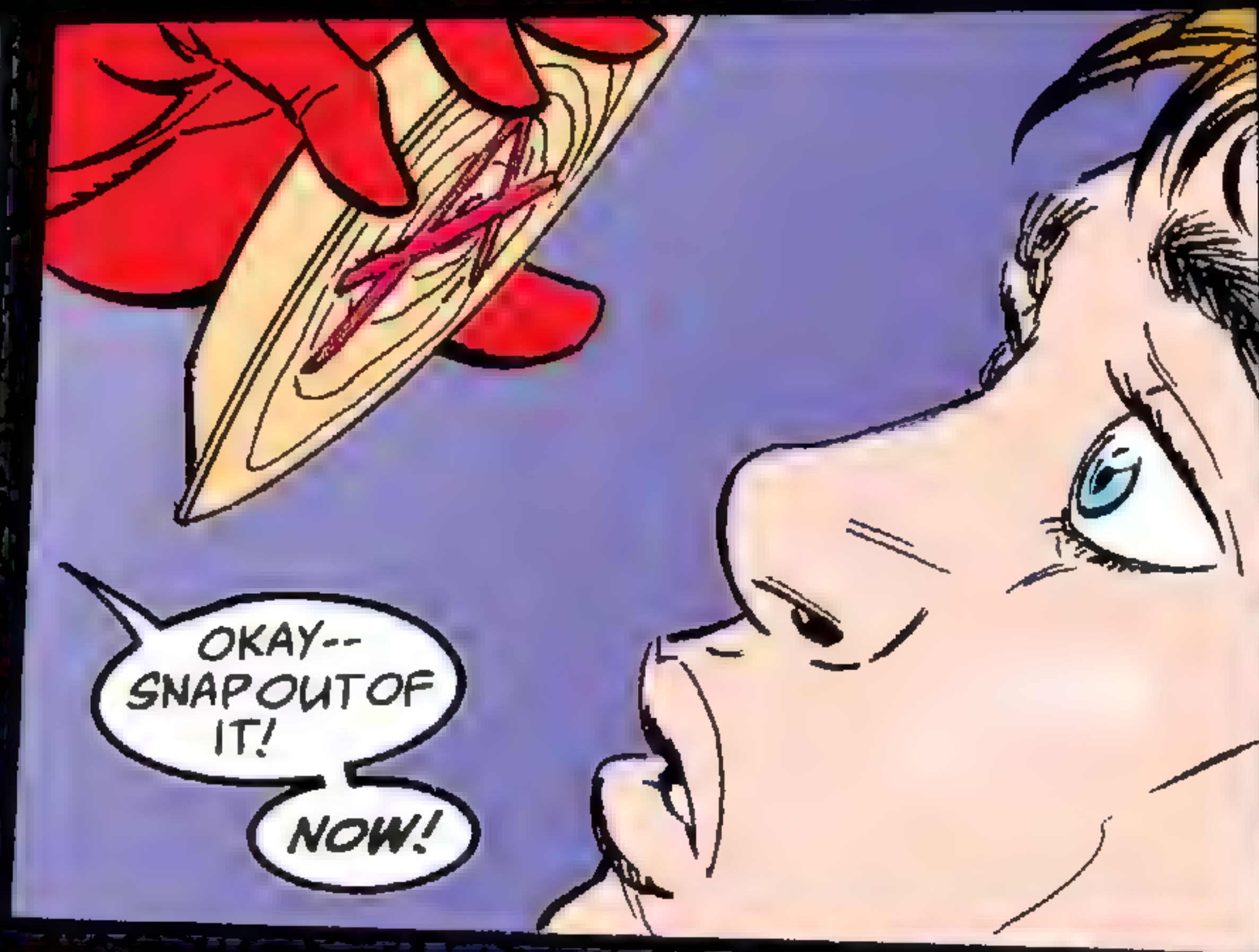


AKID?



AND HYPNO-TIZED!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE-- BUT I KNOW HOW TO FIND OUT--!



OKAY-- SNAP OUT OF IT!

NOW!



CONDITIONED DEEP. IF I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, I'LL HAVE TO GO EVEN DEEPER...!

PANICKED-- AND IT'S NOT JUST THE FIRE!

THE DEMONS ARE AFTER ME!

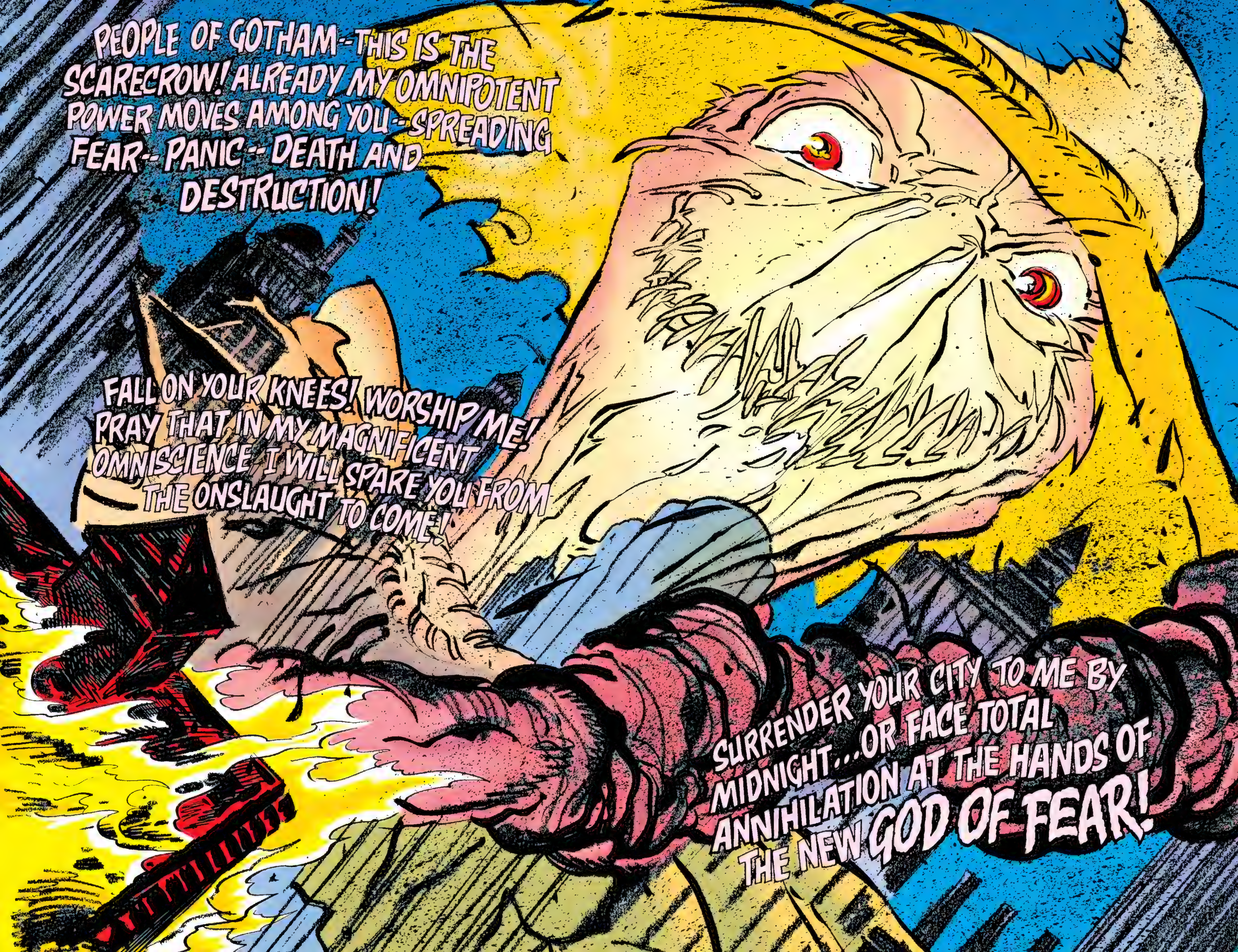
THE STEEL WOOL HURTS!

PLEASE-- NO MORE STEEL WOOL!

HE'S TERRIFIED-- INCOHERENT-- HALLUCINATING! THE SCARECROW'S FEAR-GAS...!

PEOPLE OF GOTHAM!

WHAT THE--?

A dramatic comic book illustration. The Scarecrow's face, with its iconic yellow hair and wide, staring eyes, dominates the upper right portion of the frame. He has a menacing, wide grin. Below him, a man with dark hair and a mustache is shown in a state of panic, falling backwards. The background is a dark, stormy sky with jagged, lightning-like shapes. The overall color palette is dominated by yellows, blues, and reds, creating a sense of urgency and danger.

PEOPLE OF GOTHAM--THIS IS THE
SCARECROW! ALREADY MY OMNIPOTENT
POWER MOVES AMONG YOU--SPREADING
FEAR--PANIC--DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION!

FALL ON YOUR KNEES! WORSHIP ME!
PRAY THAT IN MY MAGNIFICENT
OMNISCIENCE, I WILL SPARE YOU FROM
THE ONSLAUGHT TO COME!

SURRENDER YOUR CITY TO ME BY
MIDNIGHT...OR FACE TOTAL
ANNIHILATION AT THE HANDS OF
THE NEW GOD OF FEAR!

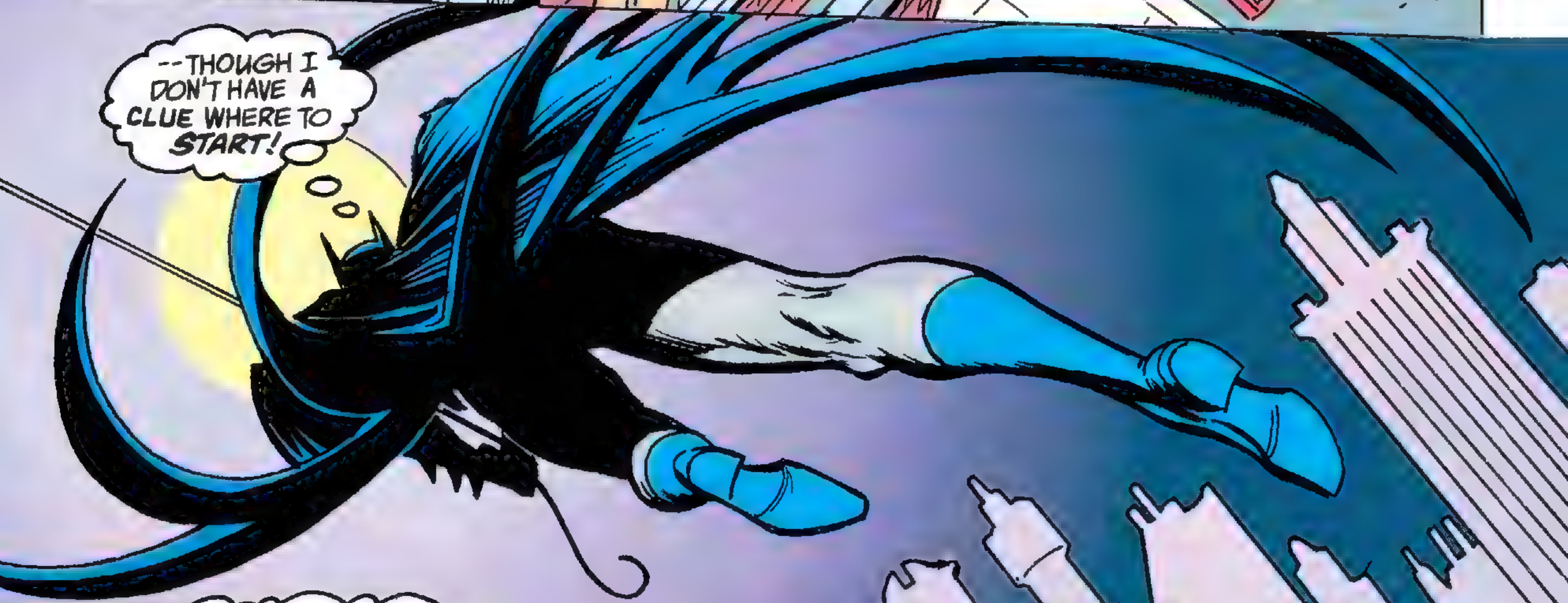


BY MIDNIGHT
OR YOUR CITY
DIES!

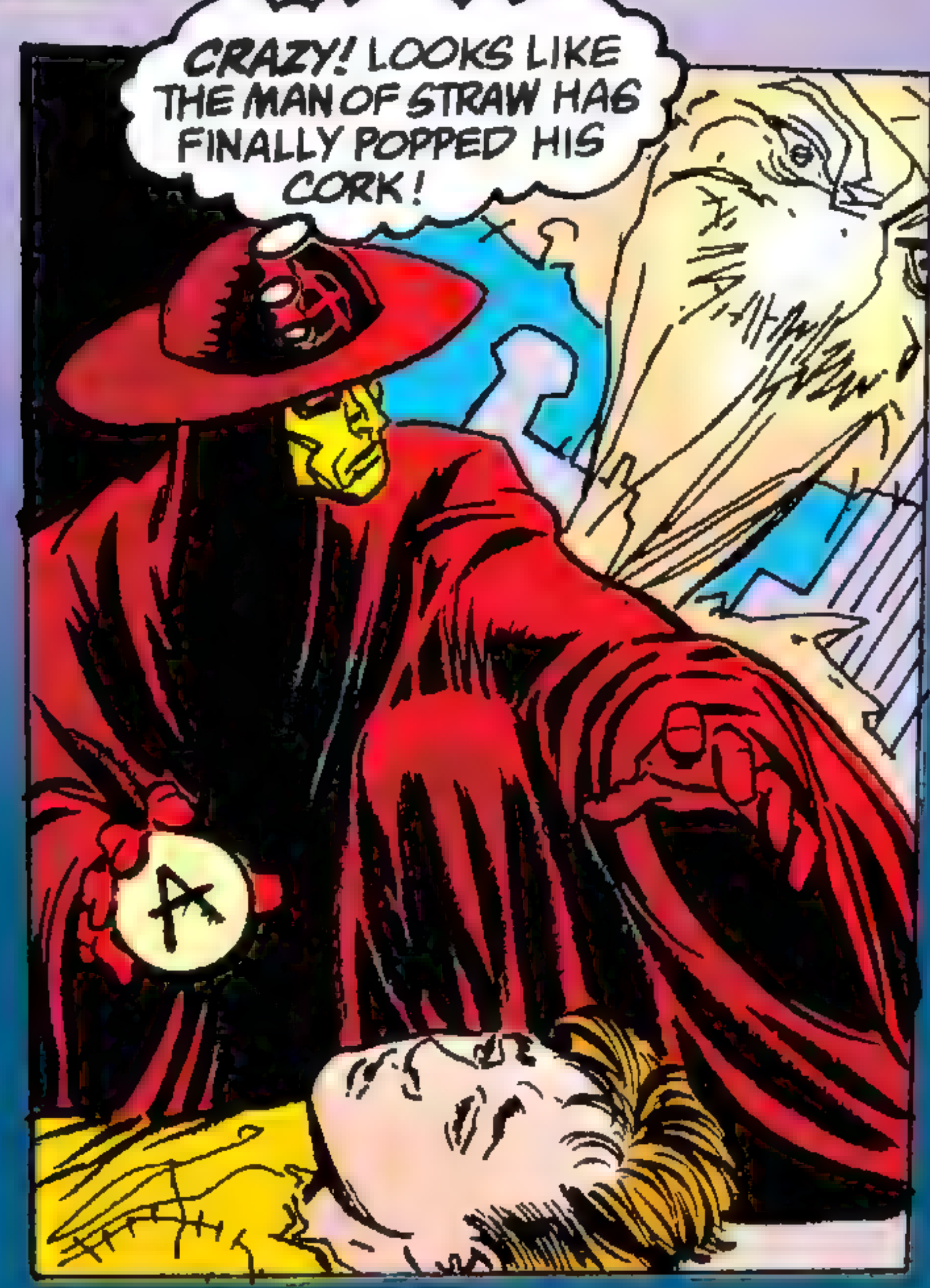
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE TRUCK THE POLICE
WERE LOOKING FOR!



I CAN LEAVE THIS TO
THE PROFESSIONALS! BETTER
I FIND SCARECROW AND PUT
AN END TO HIS MANIAC
GAMES--



--THOUGH I
DON'T HAVE A
CLUE WHERE TO
START!



CRAZY! LOOKS LIKE
THE MAN OF STRAW HAS
FINALLY POPPED HIS
CORK!



STILL... COUPLED WITH WHAT
THIS POOR CREEP'S JUST
TOLD ME, IT COULD BE THE
CHANCE I'M LOOKING
FOR--

UHHHH...!
WH...WHAT...?



--I CAN TAKE
OUT SCARECROW
--AND THE
BATMAN-- IN
ONE EASY
MOVE!

NEXT
ISSUE: **THE BIG FEAR!**



NO 18 | EARLY OCT 93
CONCLUSION

KNIGHTFALL™



B A T M A N®

SHADOW OF THE BAT

THE GOD OF FEAR

BY GRANT, BLEVINS & GEORGE





Cover art by
BRIAN STELFREEZE

ALAN GRANT
Writer

BRET BLEVINS
Penciller

STEVE GEORGE
Inker

ADRIENNE ROY
Colorist

TODD KLEIN
Letterer



CAR 49!
IMMEDIATE
BACKUP
REQUIRED!

PRECINCT

--THE
DEVIL ARE
THOSE FIRE-
TEAMS?!

--RIOT AT
THE EMBASSY
THEATRE!



IT'S THE SCARECROW'S
FEAR-GAS! WE'RE STRETCHED
TO OUR LIMIT! I'LL SEND BACK-
UP AS AND WHEN--!

--SNIPER
ON DEAN
STREET!

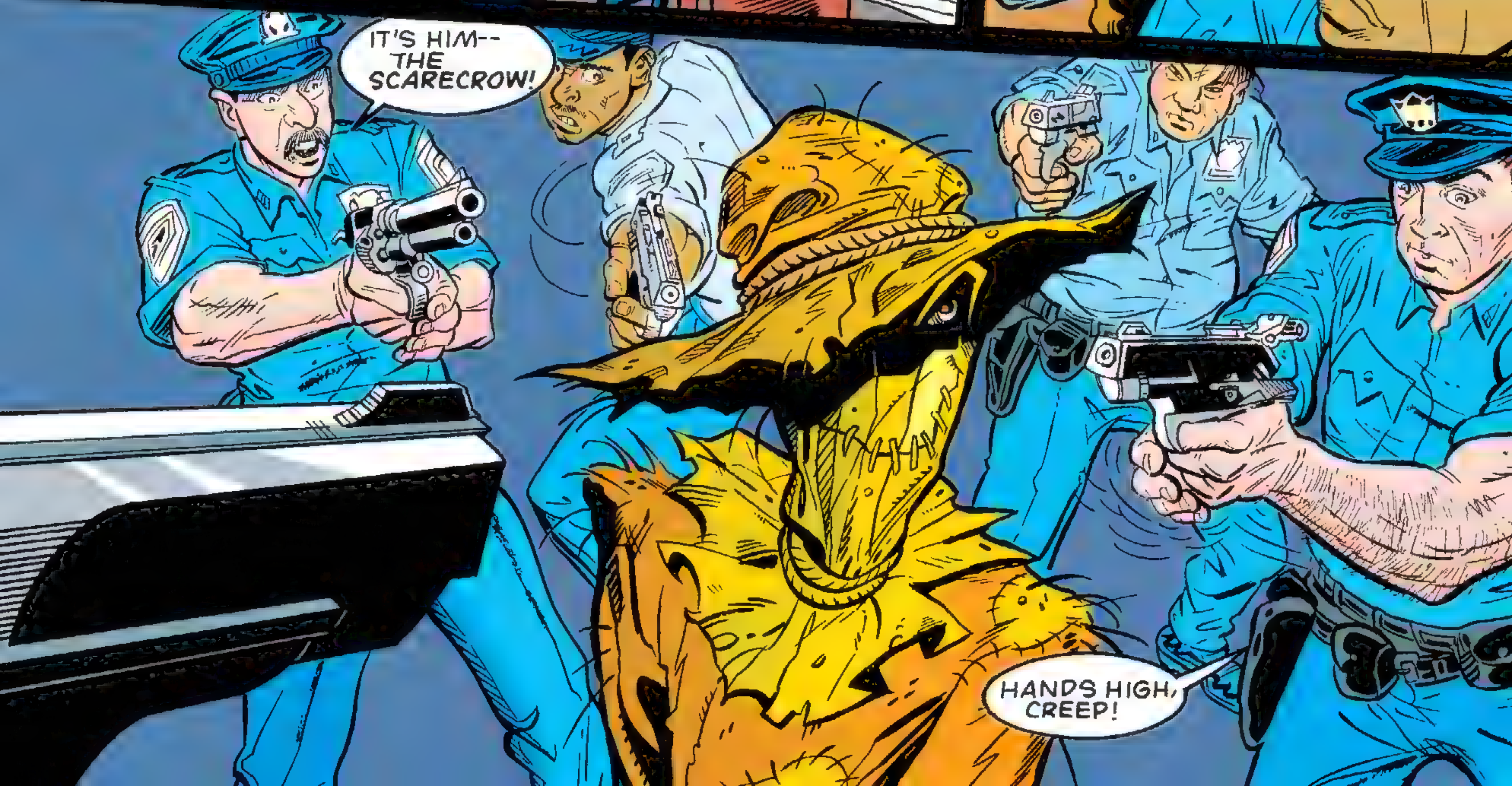
--PANICKED
MOB--



SAHEM!



I'VE
COME TO
TURN
MYSELF
IN!



IT'S HIM--
THE
SCARECROW!

HANDS HIGH,
CREEP!



HEY--
WHAT'S
THAT...?

LOOK
OUT--

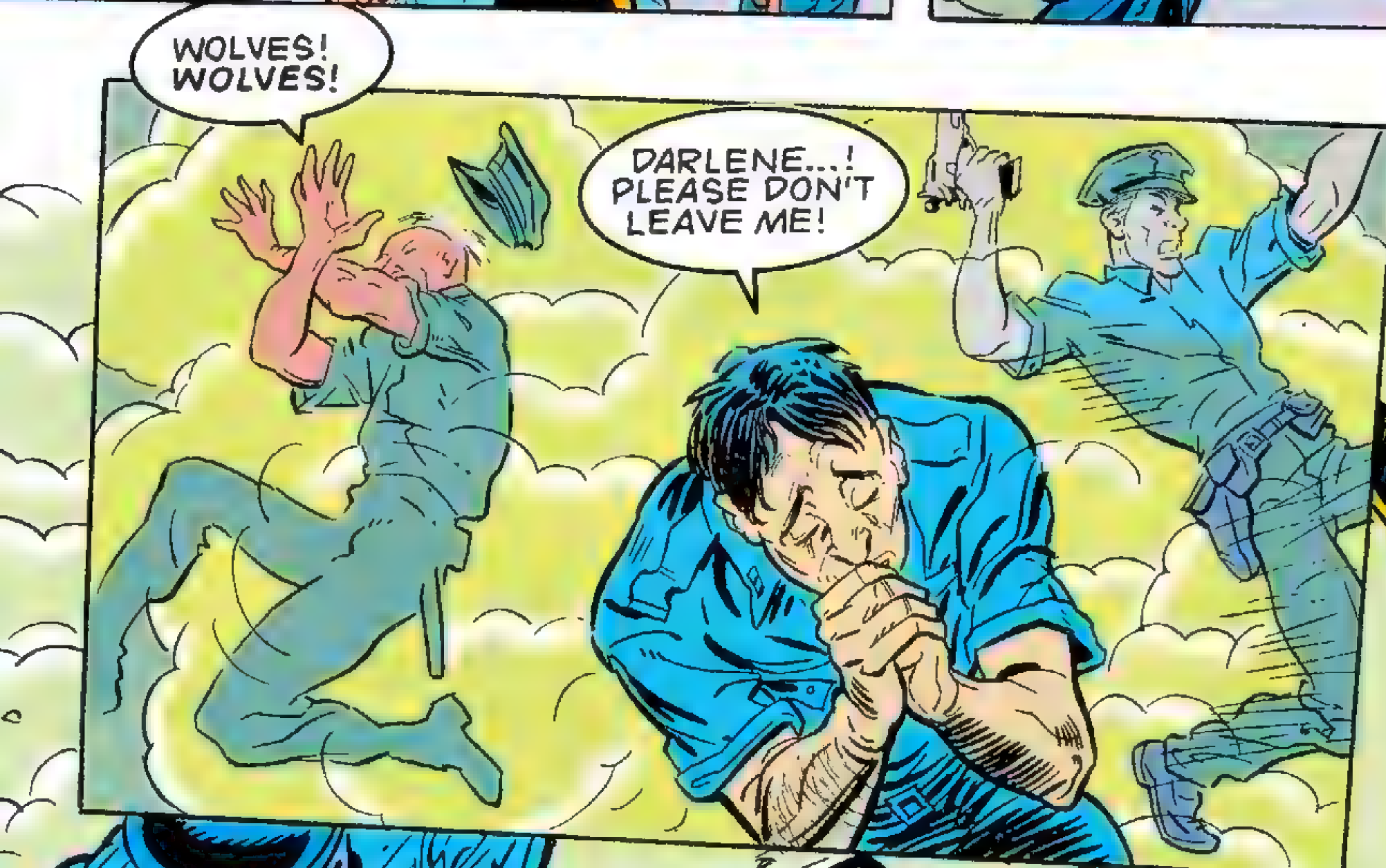


GAS--!

FWOOMFF!

GAKK!

COUGH!



WOLVES!
WOLVES!

DARLENE...!
PLEASE DON'T
LEAVE ME!



S-SCARECROW'S
GANG! GET BACK
FROM ME--!

AGH!

AAAH!

GET BACK,
I SAY!

BLAM BLAM

BLAM



"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM!" BE WISE, PEOPLE OF GOTHAM! FEAR ME! WORSHIP ME!

THERE-- HIS HOLOGRAM TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT!

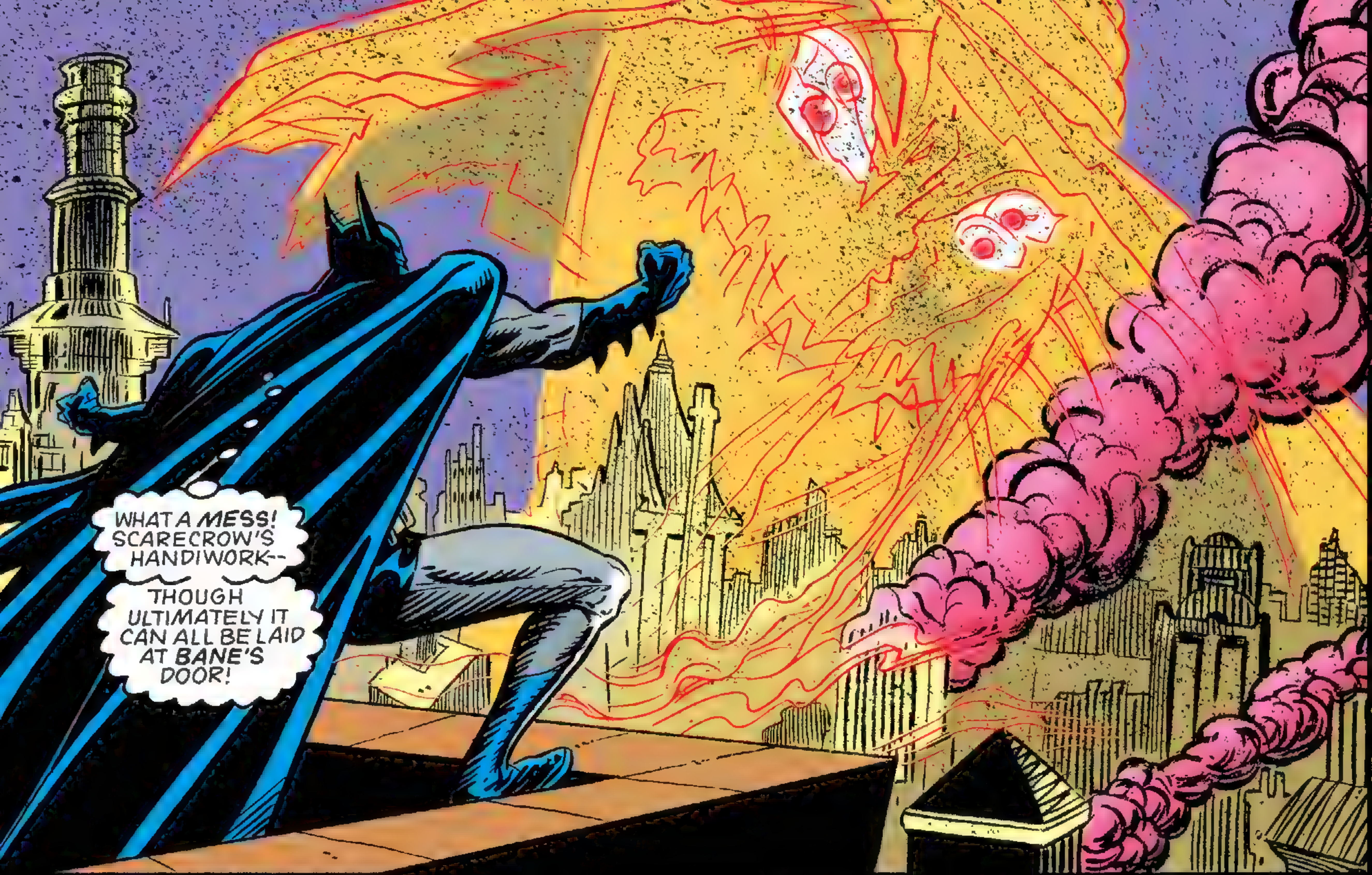


YOU HAVE TILL MIDNIGHT TO PROCLAIM ME... OR YOUR CITY WILL PERISH!



MIDNIGHT-- OR DIE!

BLAST! THIS MUST BE ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL PROJECTORS--



WHAT A MESS!
SCARECROW'S
HANDIWORK--
THOUGH
ULTIMATELY IT
CAN ALL BE LAID
AT BANE'S
DOOR!

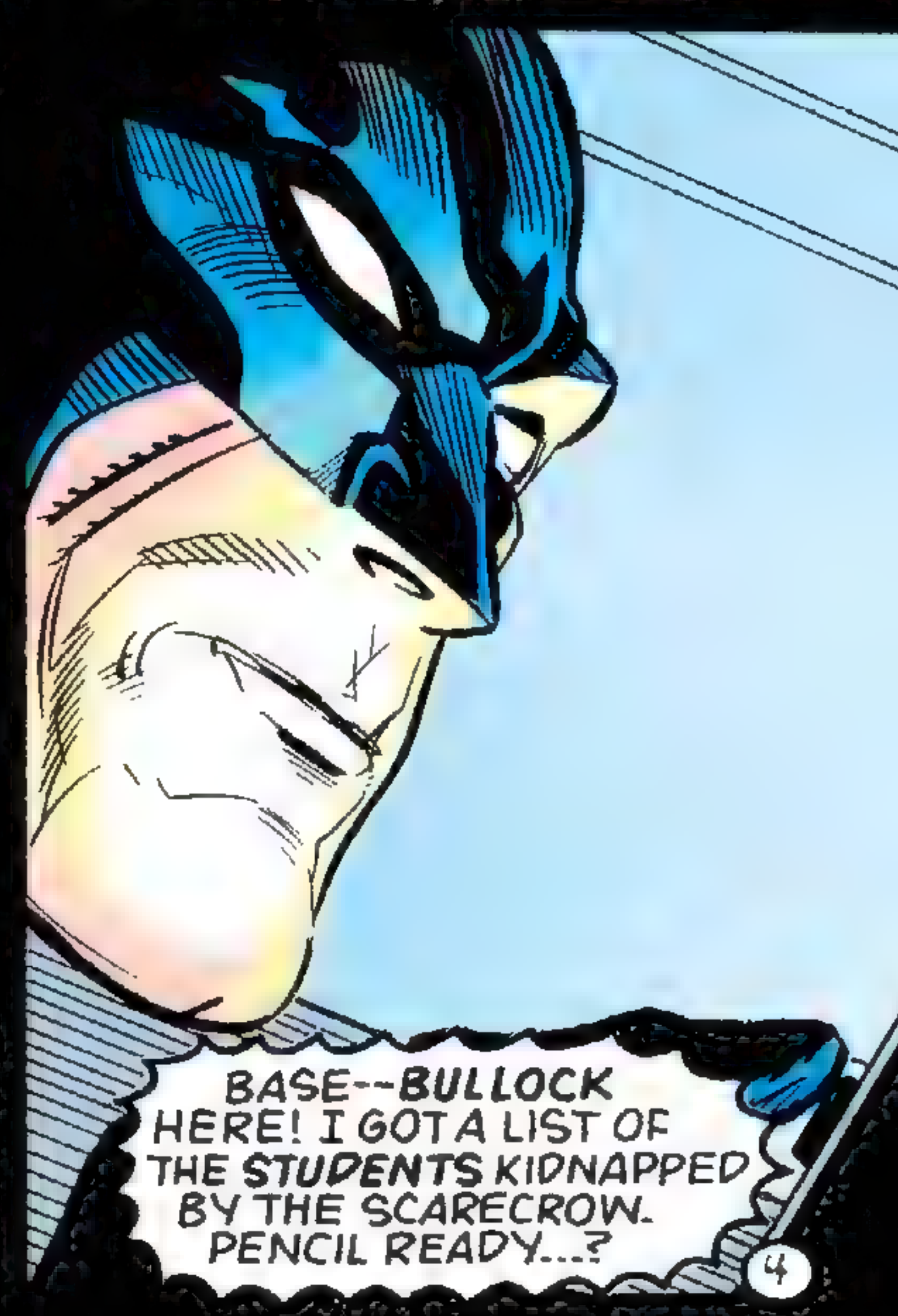
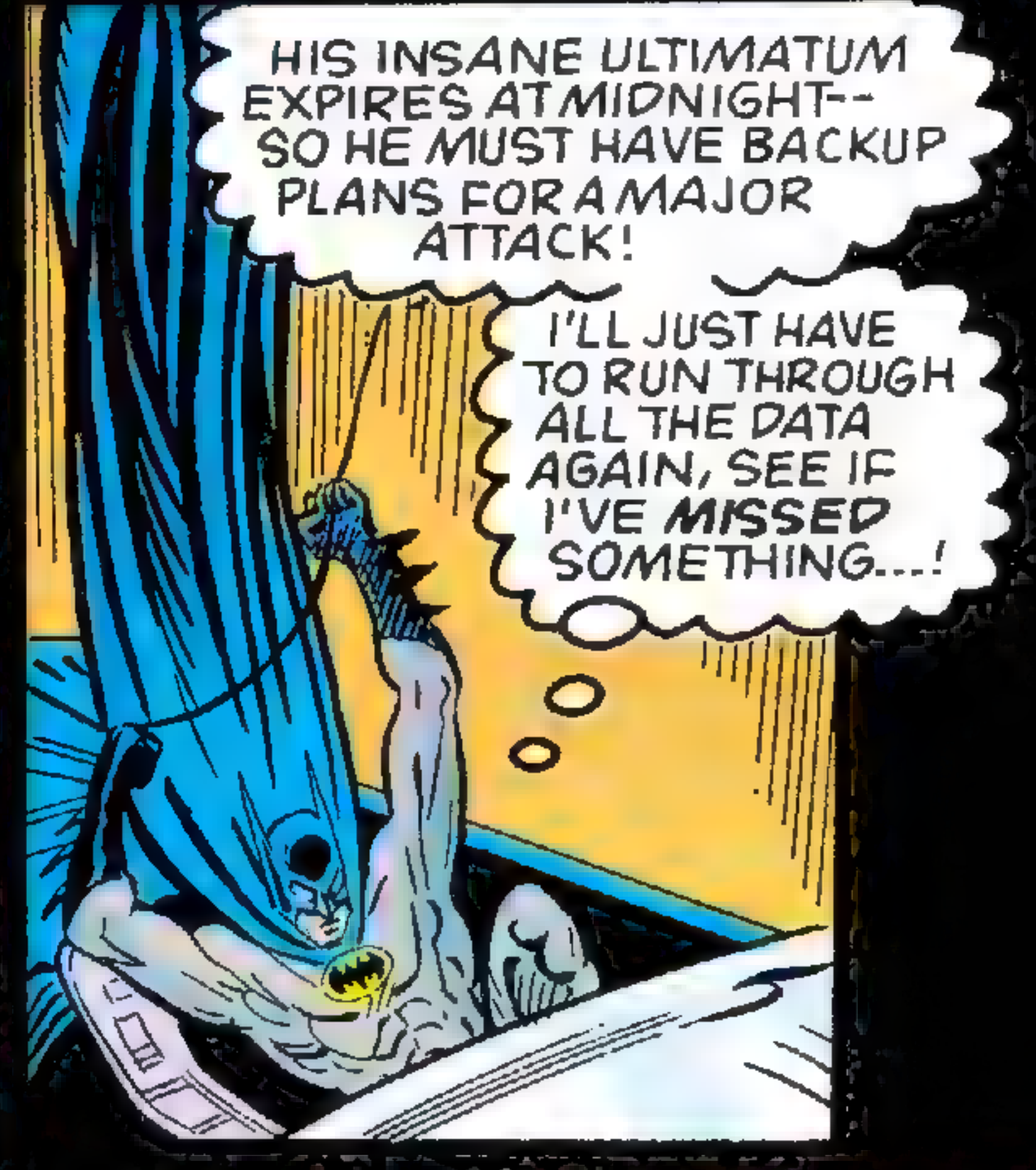
I OUGHT TO GO
AFTER HIM. I COULD
STOP THIS CARNAGE
BY SIMPLY KILLING
HIM!

NO!
GOTHAM'S MY
CITY NOW. IT'S MY
DUTY TO LOOK
AFTER IT-- AND
SCARECROW
MUST BE MY
FIRST PRIORITY!

THE HOLOGRAM GEAR
MUST BE FROM THE
TRUCKLOAD HIJACKED
YESTERDAY...
...BUT NO
CLUES THERE
AS TO WHERE
HE MIGHT
BE!

HIS INSANE ULTIMATUM
EXPIRES AT MIDNIGHT--
SO HE MUST HAVE BACKUP
PLANS FOR A MAJOR
ATTACK!

I'LL JUST HAVE
TO RUN THROUGH
ALL THE DATA
AGAIN, SEE IF
I'VE MISSED
SOMETHING...!

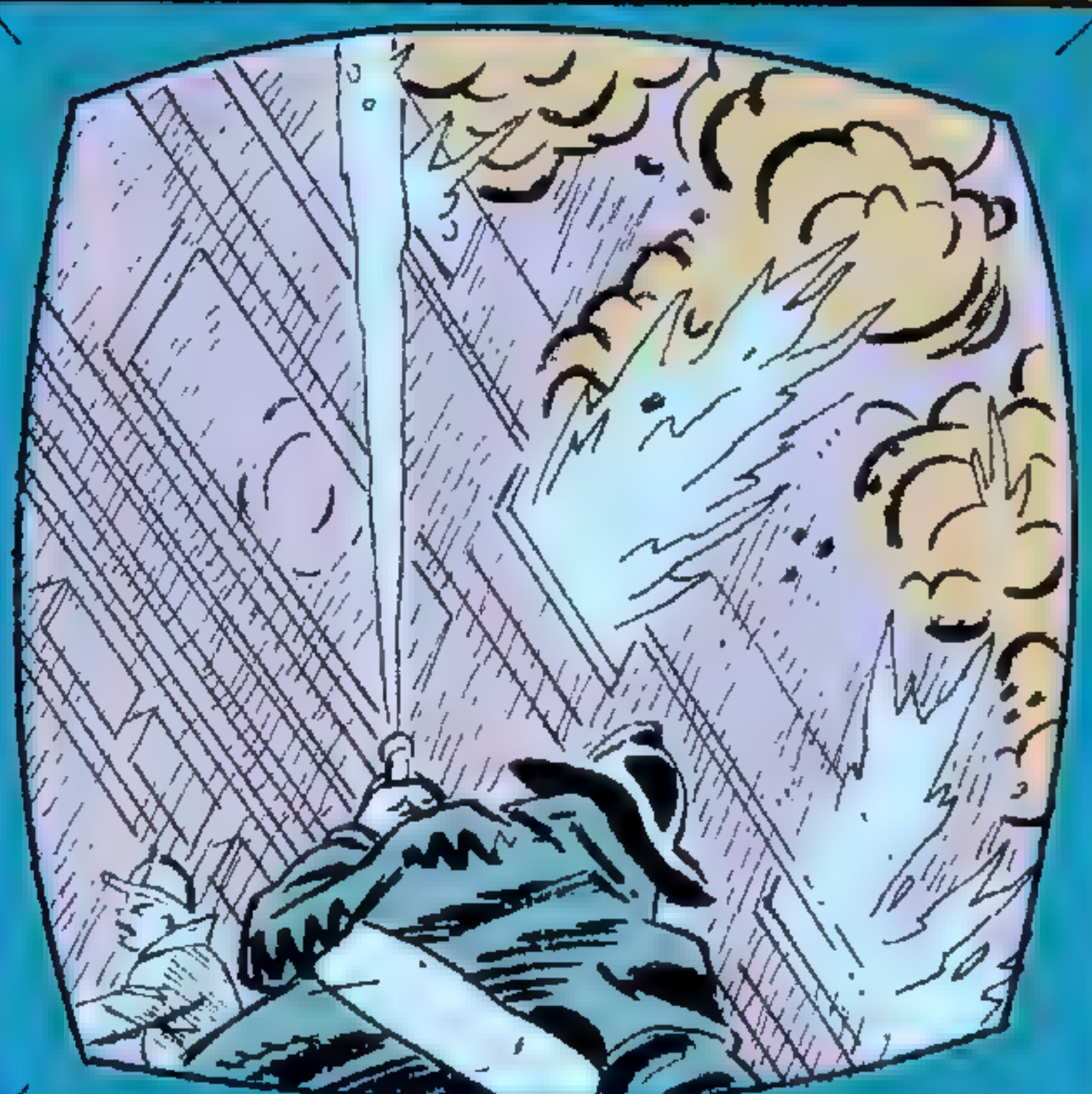


BASE--BULLOCK
HERE! I GOT A LIST OF
THE STUDENTS KIDNAPPED
BY THE SCARECROW.
PENCIL READY...?

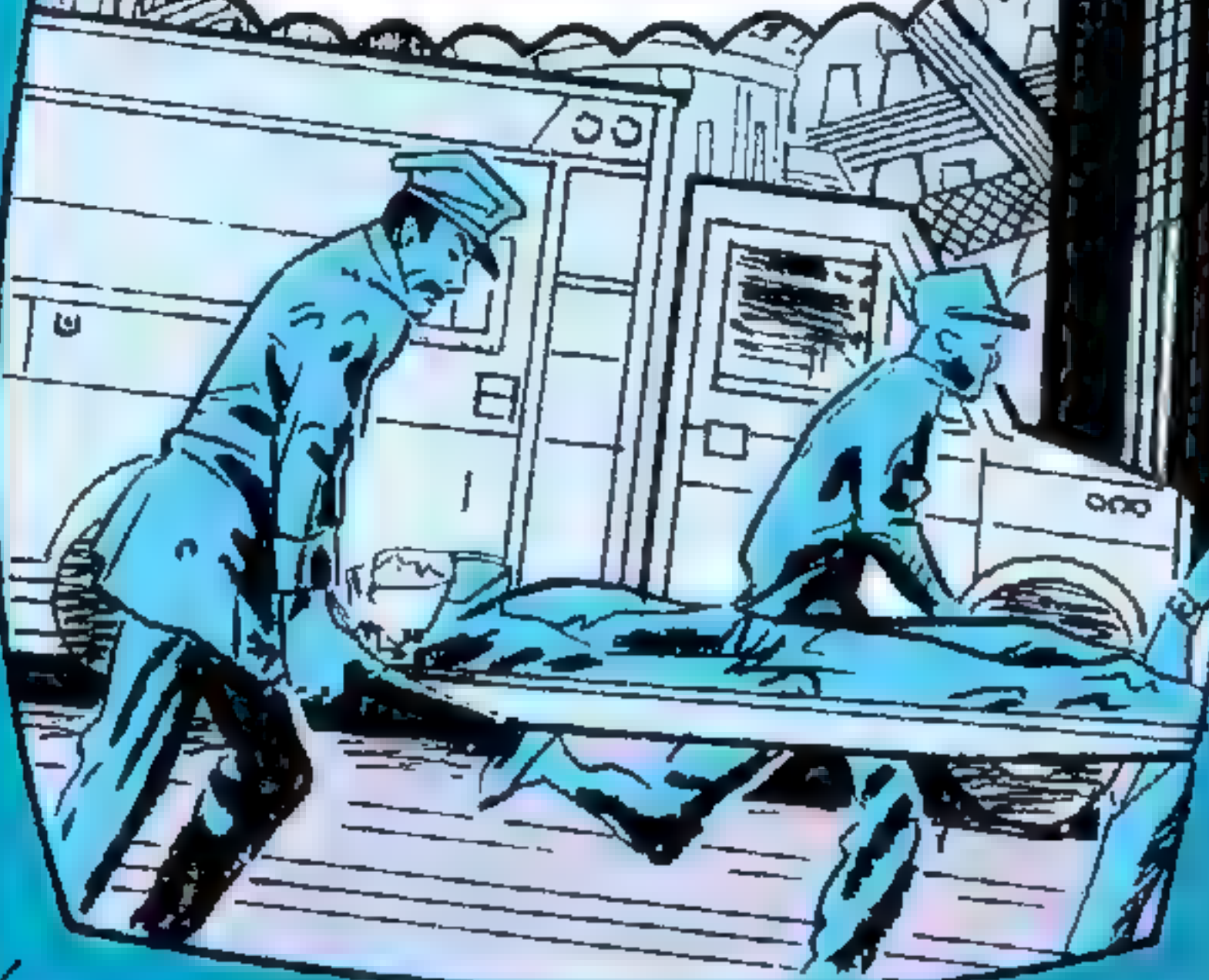
GOTHAM IS IN
CHAOS!

POLICE CONFIRM THAT
EX-GOTHAM U. PROFESSOR
JONATHAN CRANE--ALIAS
THE SCARECROW-- HAS
RELEASED HIS DEADLY
FEAR-GAS AT SEVERAL CITY
CENTER LOCATIONS!

MAJOR FIRES ARE
BURNING IN AT LEAST
TWO PLACES! AT THE RITZ
HOTEL, MORE THAN A
HUNDRED PEOPLE ARE
BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED
WHEN THE BALLROOM
CEILING COLLAPSED!



AT THE FORTY-THIRD
PRECINCT--A STUDENT
BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF
THOSE KIDNAPPED EARLIER
TONIGHT-- WAS SHOT DEAD
IN A FIREFIGHT. THREE
POLICE OFFICERS ALSO
PERISHED!



DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC IS
GRIDLOCKED, DELAYING EMER-
GENCY SERVICE RESPONSES!
REPORTS FROM THE EMBASSY
THEATRE SUGGEST DOZENS
DEAD AND HUNDREDS
TRAMPLED IN A MASS PANIC!



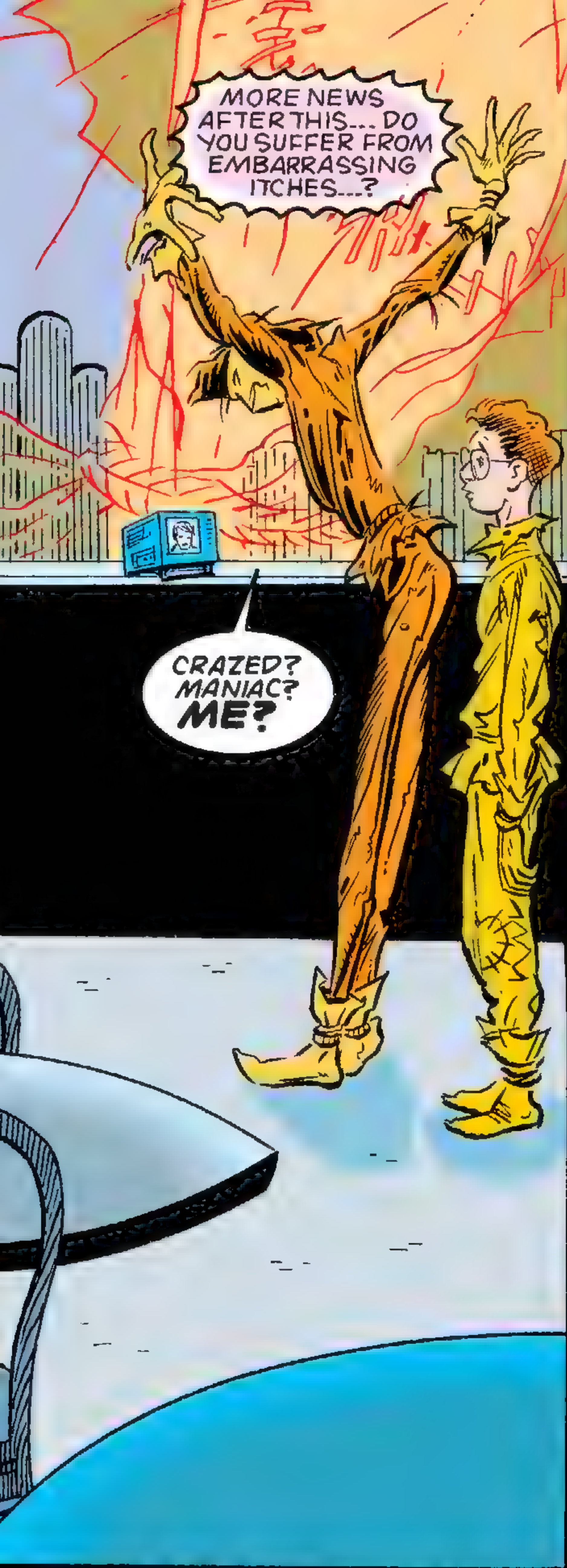
TOWERING OVER THE
CARNAGE, A GIANT HOLO-
GRAM IMAGE OF THE
PERPETRATOR--



--BUT THE CRAZED
SCARECROW HAS OUTDONE
EVEN HIMSELF THIS
TIME--

--UNLESS GOTHAM
WORSHIPS HIM AS A GOD,
THE MANIAC THREATENS
TO DESTROY THE
ENTIRE CITY!





YOU'LL BE MY FIRST
TELEVISED
SACRIFICE!



INSANE
INDEED! HOW
CAN A GOD BE
INSANE?

STUNTED
DWARVES!
WHAT DO
THEY
KNOW...?

JUST TAKE THE PAUCITY
OF WORDS THEY HAVE FOR
STATES OF FEAR--ANXIETY,
NERVOUSNESS, FRIGHT,
FEAR ITSELF, AND
TERROR.

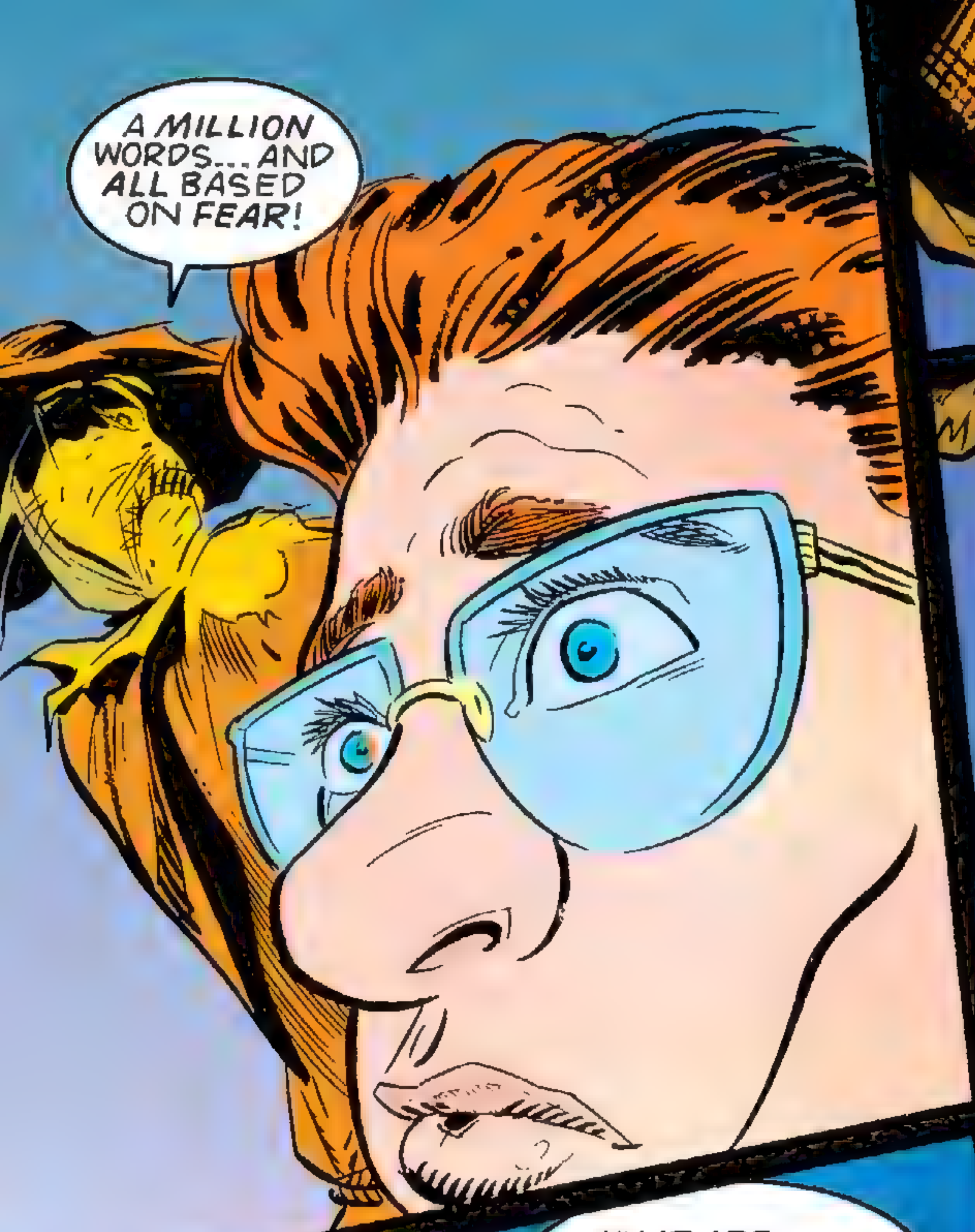
WHAT KIND OF
PRIMEVAL BRAIN
WOULD STOP AT
THAT?



WAIT TILL I'M IN
CHARGE! WE'LL BE
PRECISE! THERE'LL
BE A THOUSAND
WORDS FOR FEAR!

ONE FOR THAT COLD
CLAMMY FEELING WHEN,
ALONE IN BED, A CORPSE
GRABS YOUR ANKLE!
ONE FOR THAT SWEET,
ETERNAL FRISSON
BEFORE A MAJOR
AUTO CRASH!





A MILLION WORDS... AND ALL BASED ON FEAR!



WHAT DO YOU SAY, PHIL?

HELLO? ANYBODY HOME?

RAP RAP



WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT IN THERE? HATE ME, EH?

YES.

Yes, I hate you, you cold-blooded maniac!

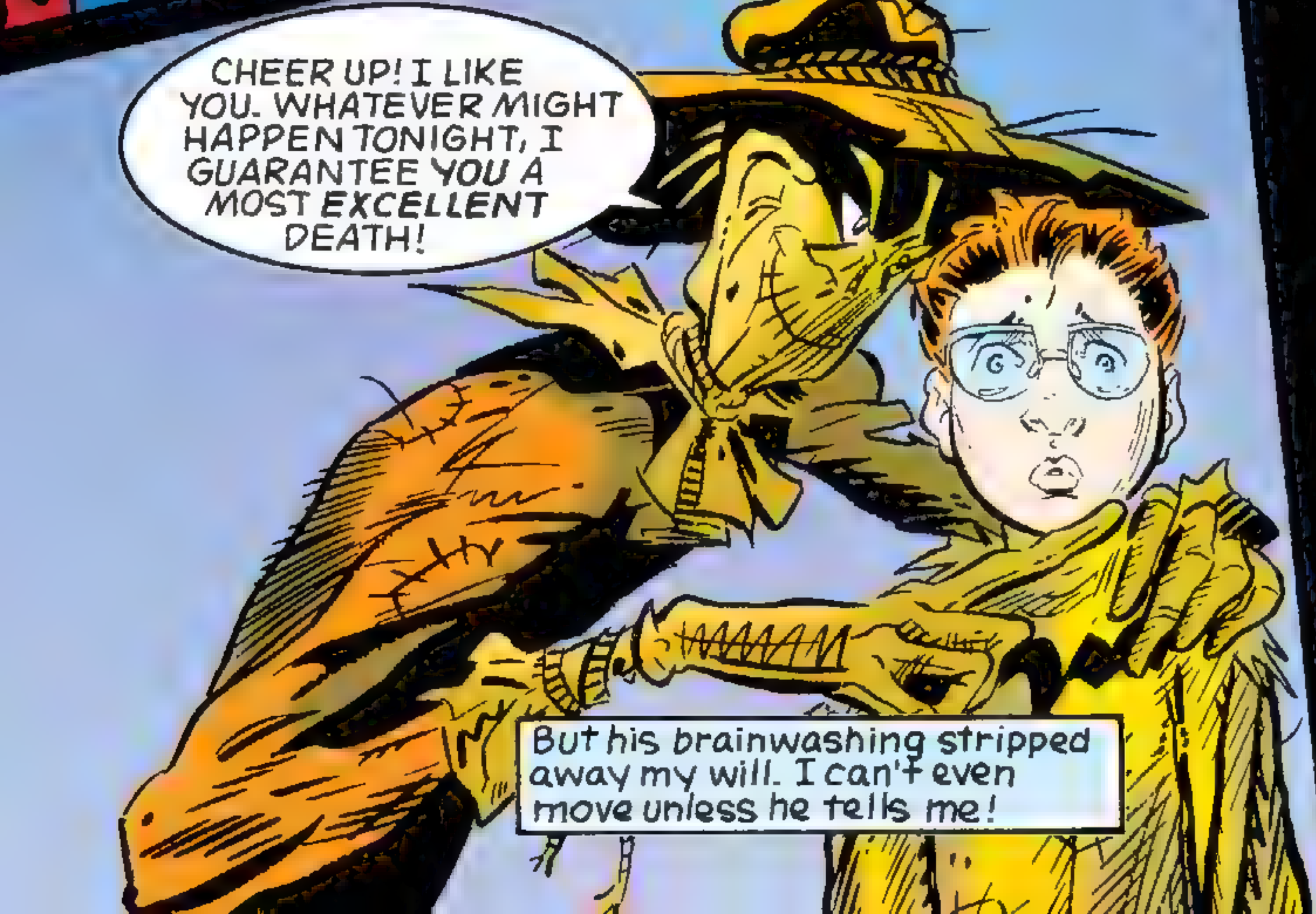


REMEMBERING HOW I KILLED YOUR FATHER? OR WORRYING ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO KILL YOU?

BOTH.

I want to close my hands round that scrawny neck and squeeze and squeeze and squeeze...!

DIFFICULT TO LIP-READ HIM THROUGH THAT HOOD--



CHEER UP! I LIKE YOU. WHATEVER MIGHT HAPPEN TONIGHT, I GUARANTEE YOU A MOST EXCELLENT DEATH!

But his brainwashing stripped away my will. I can't even move unless he tells me!

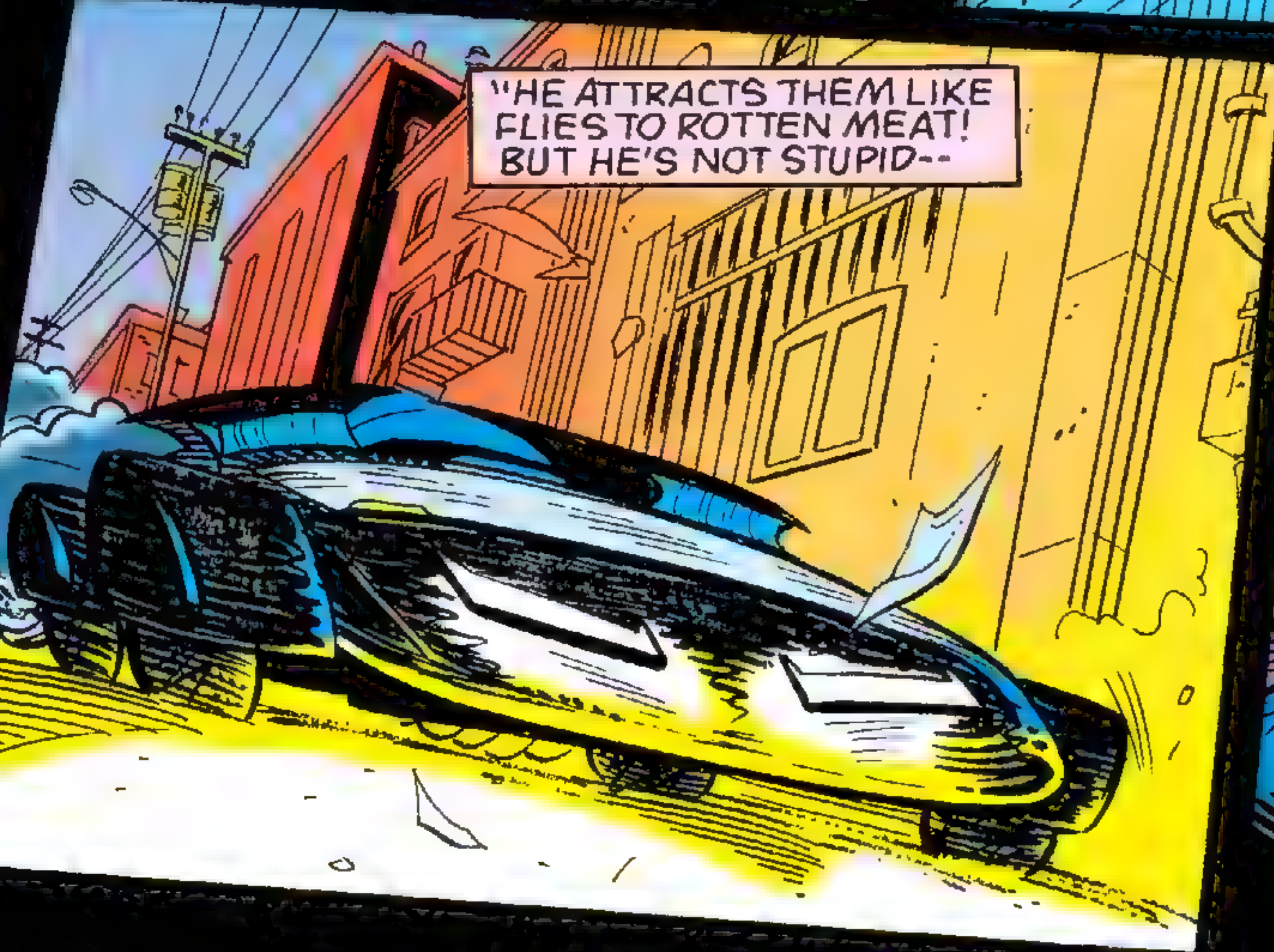




--BUT I DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING TO KNOW THE MAN'S CRAZY! I SHOULD TAKE HIM DOWN...



... BUT THAT'D ONLY BE A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION TO THE CITY'S WOES. WITHOUT BATMAN, THERE WOULD BE NO SCARECROW-- NO JOKER--NO BANE!

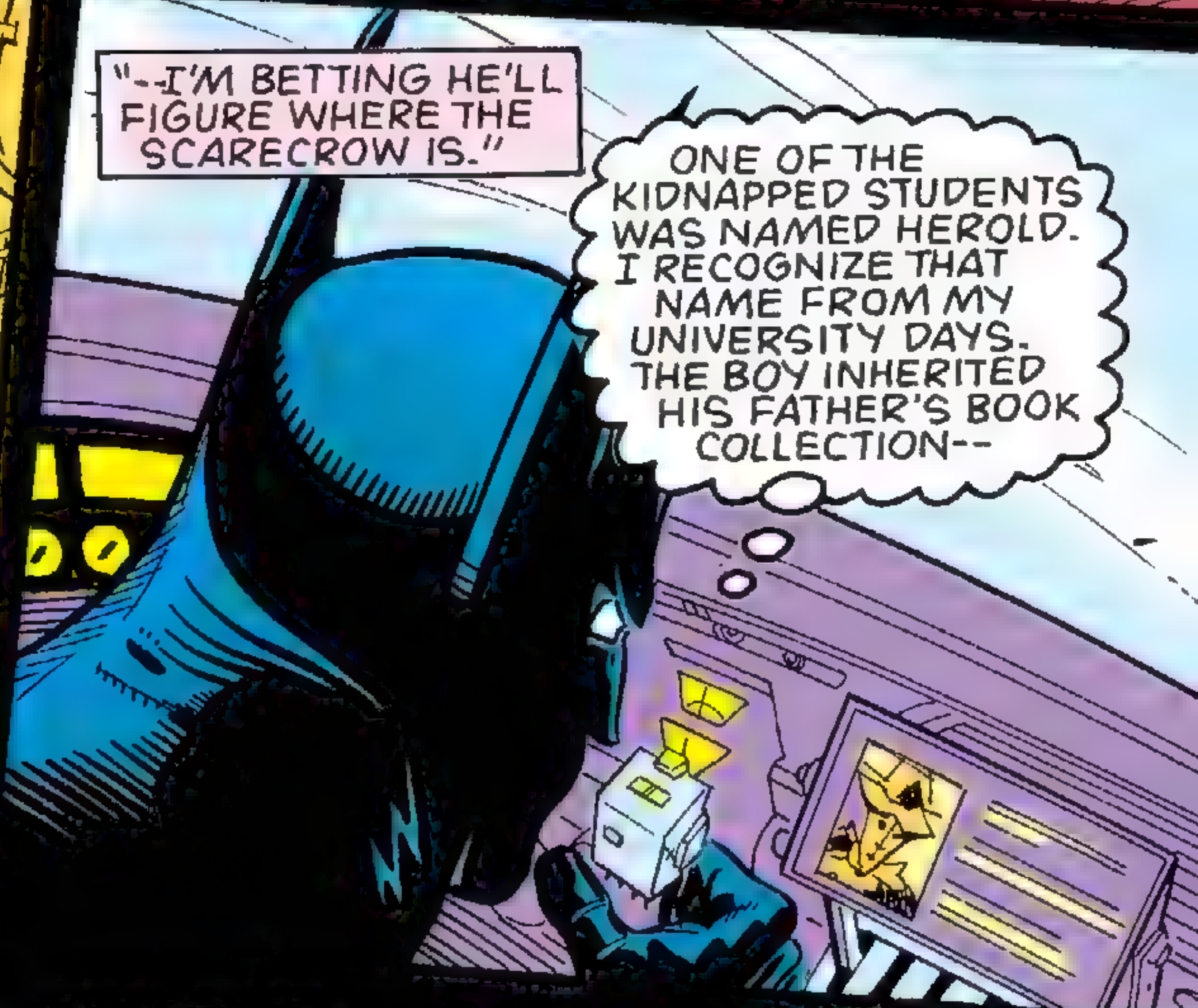


"HE ATTRACTS THEM LIKE FLIES TO ROTTEN MEAT! BUT HE'S NOT STUPID--"



"AND WHEN HE DOES--"

--AND THE SCARECROW'S ABIDING PASSION WAS ALWAYS ANCIENT BOOKS!

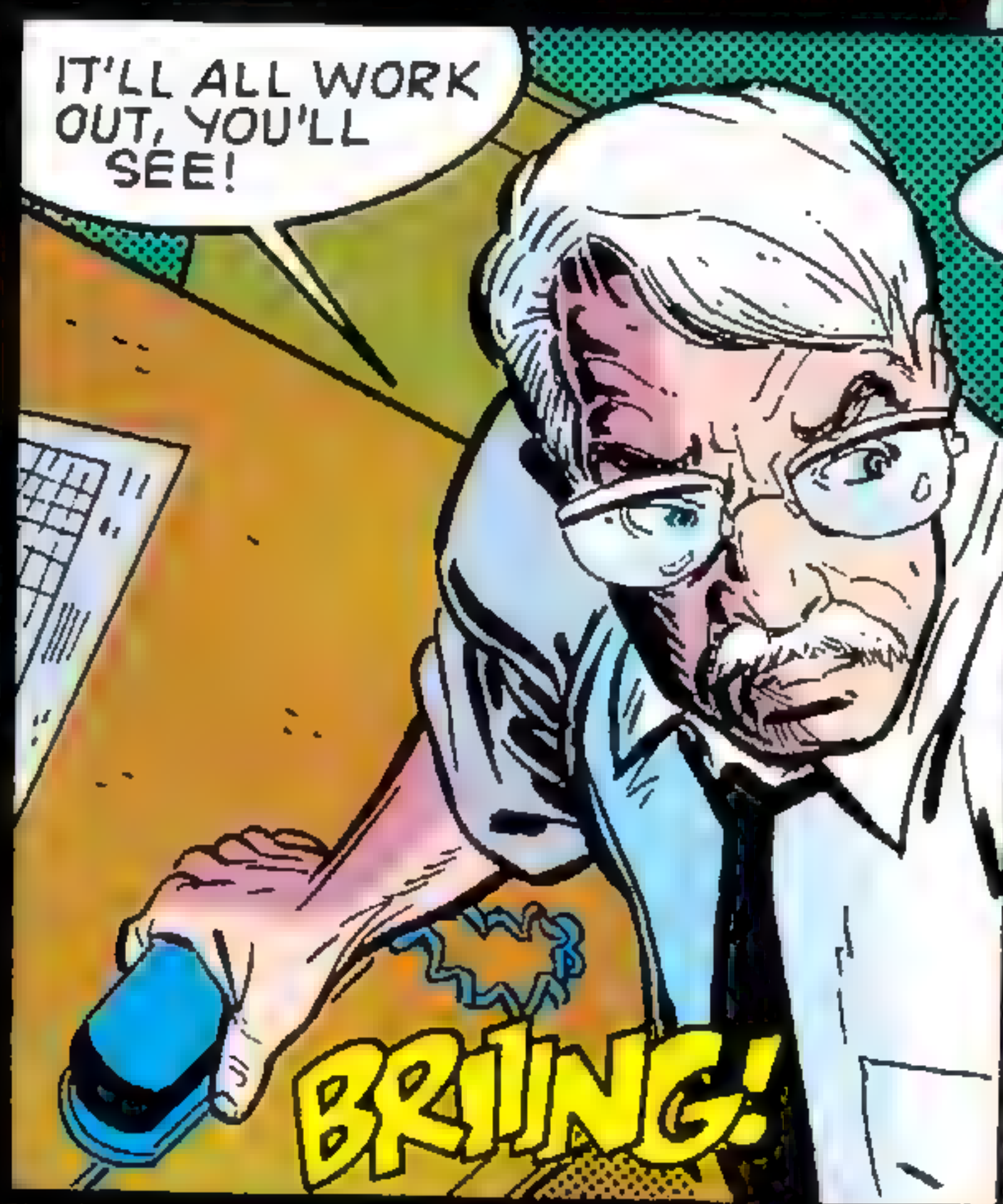
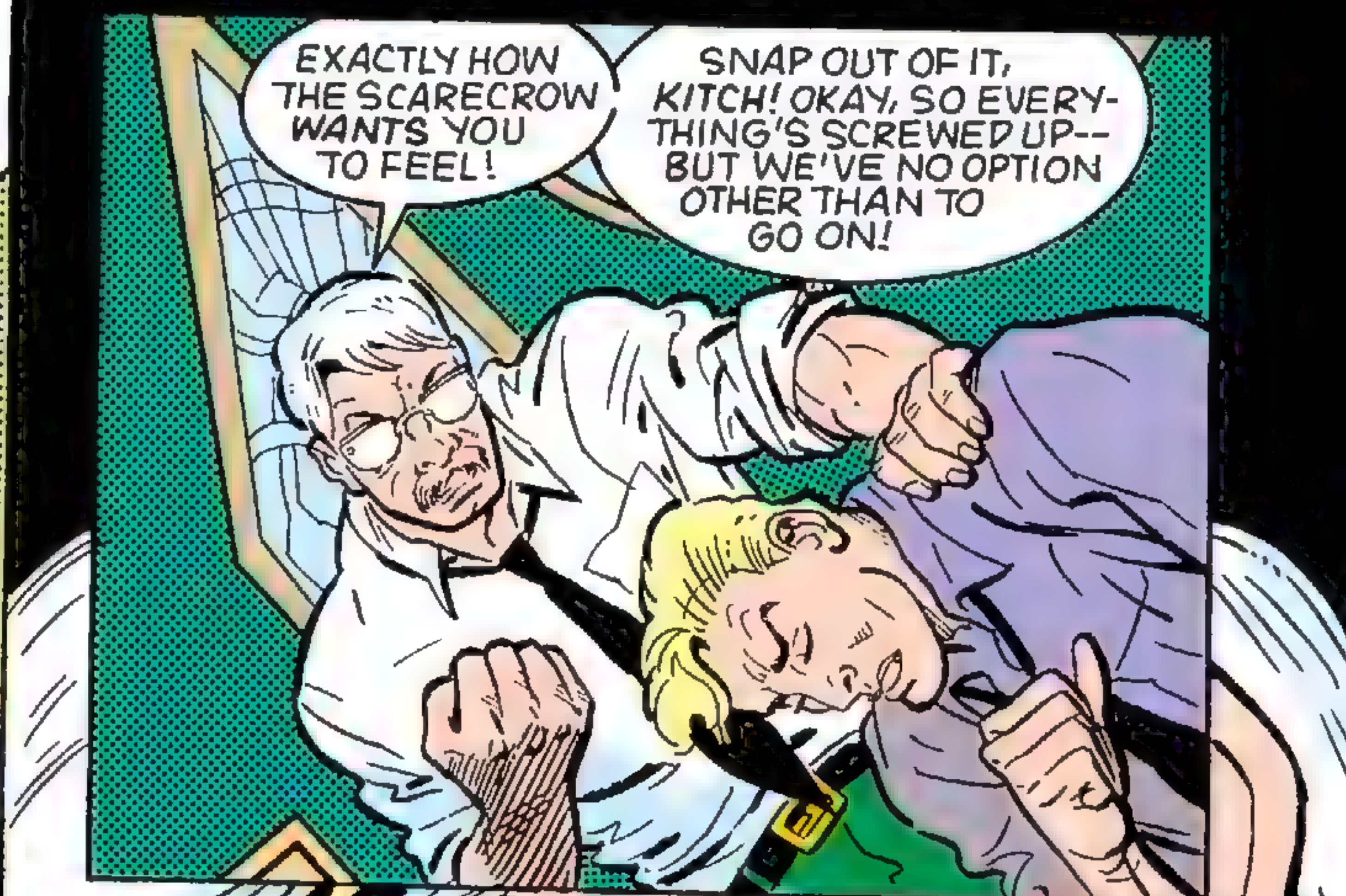
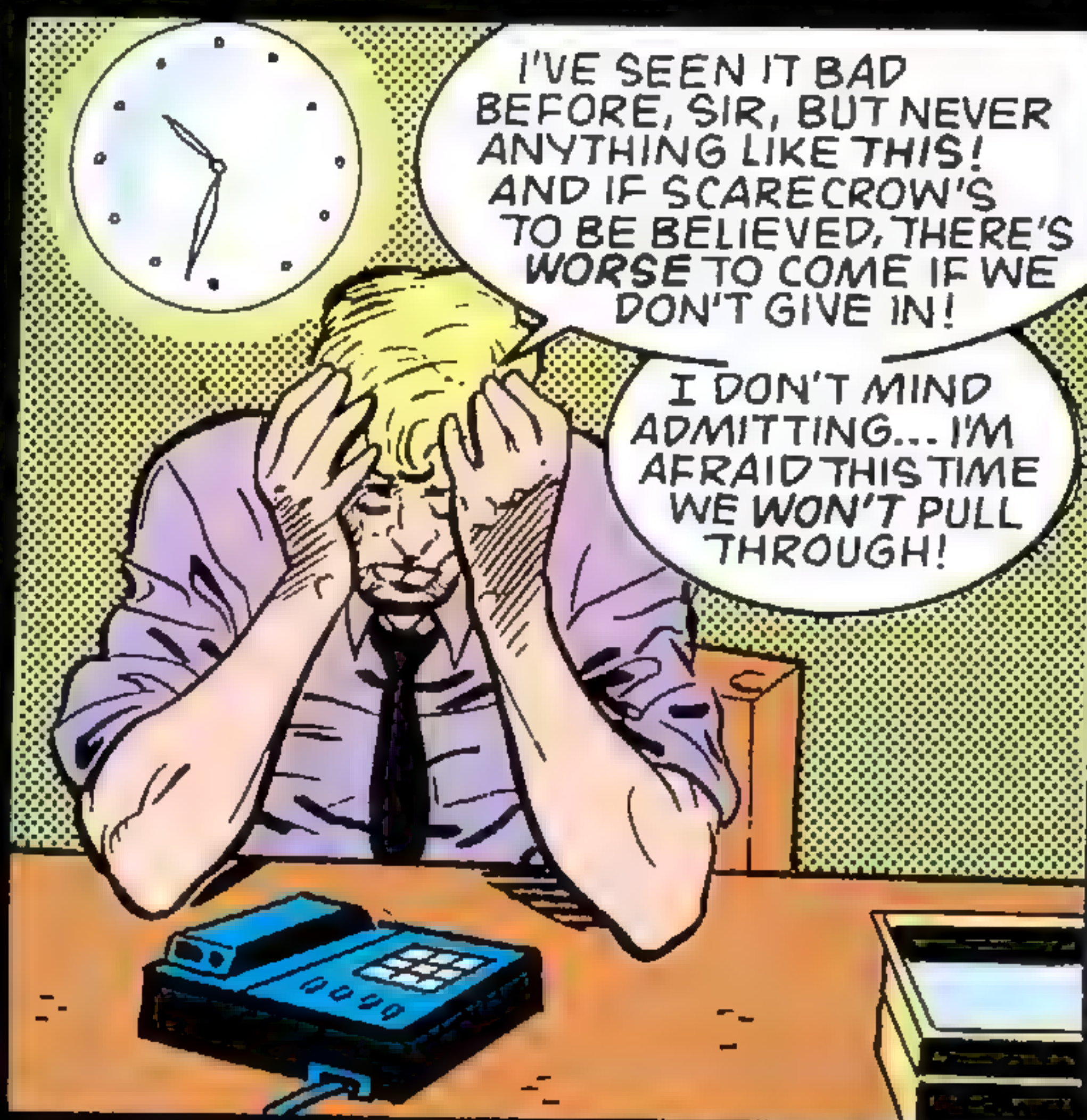
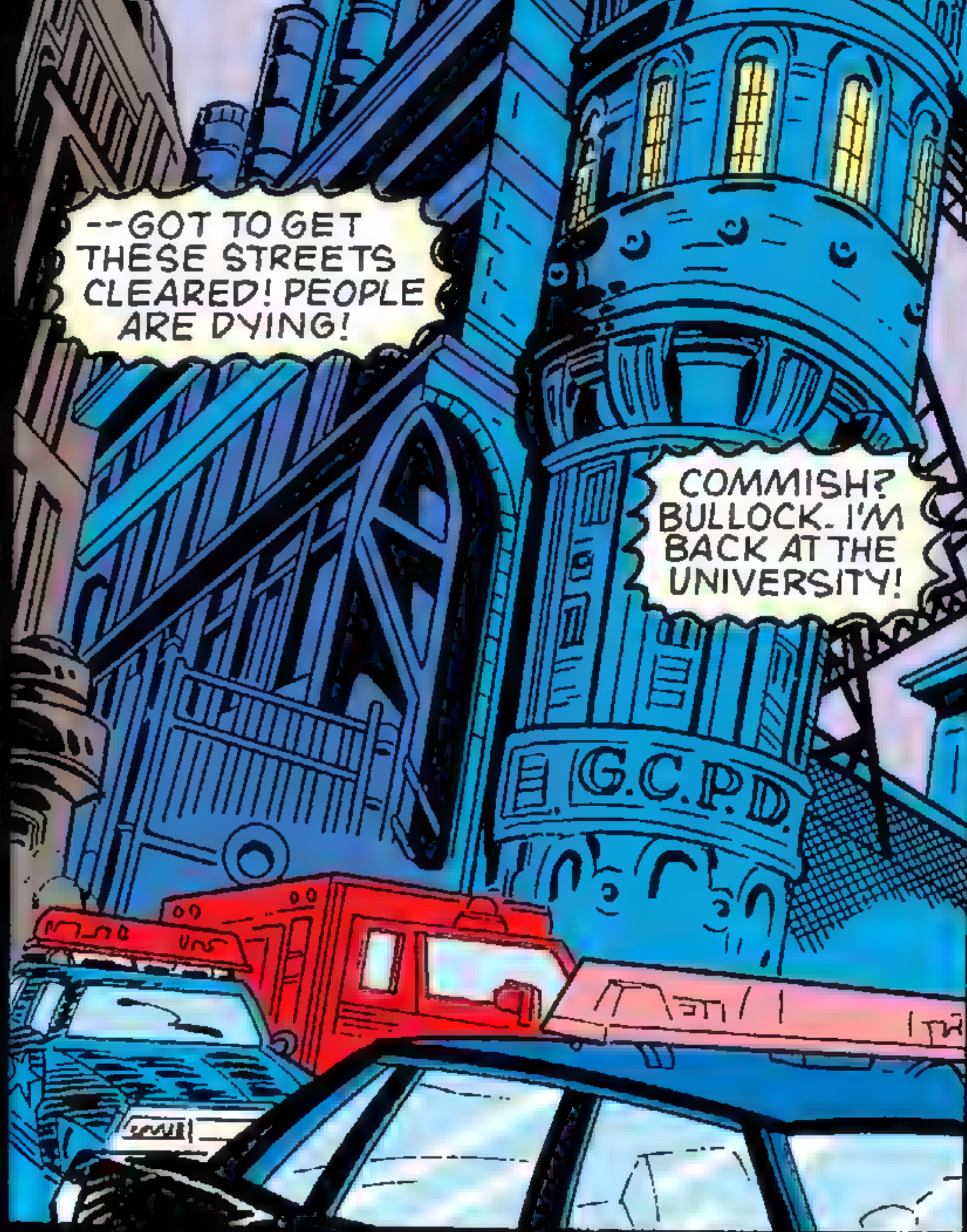


"--I'M BETTING HE'LL FIGURE WHERE THE SCARECROW IS."

ONE OF THE KIDNAPPED STUDENTS WAS NAMED HEROLD. I RECOGNIZE THAT NAME FROM MY UNIVERSITY DAYS. THE BOY INHERITED HIS FATHER'S BOOK COLLECTION--

--HE'LL FIND ANARKY WAITING!



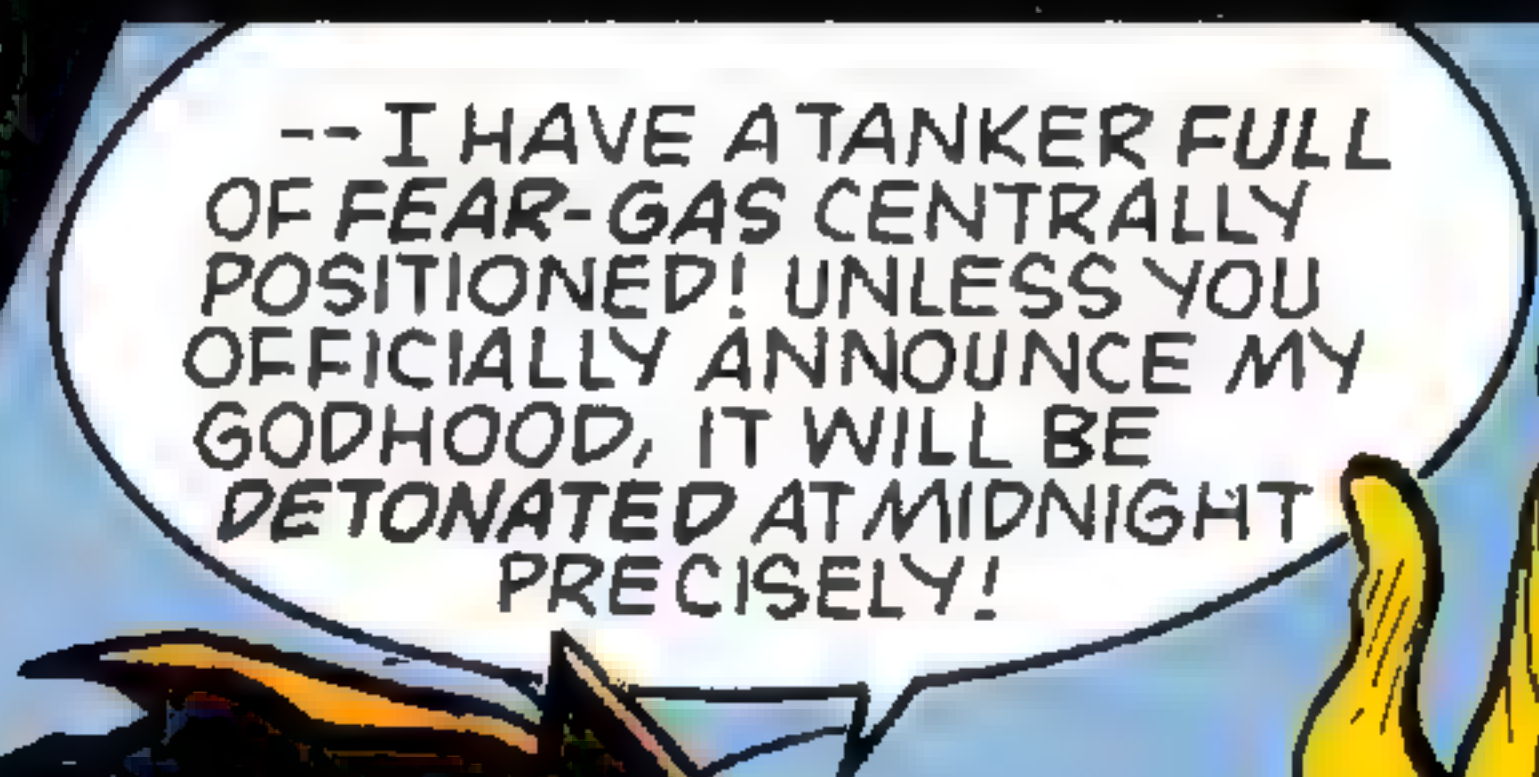




HAD ENOUGH?
IS THE CITY PREPARED
TO DECLARE ME
GOD YET?

LISTEN
TO ME, YOU
MURDERING
MANIAC!
I--

NO, GORDON!
YOU WILL LISTEN
TO ME--



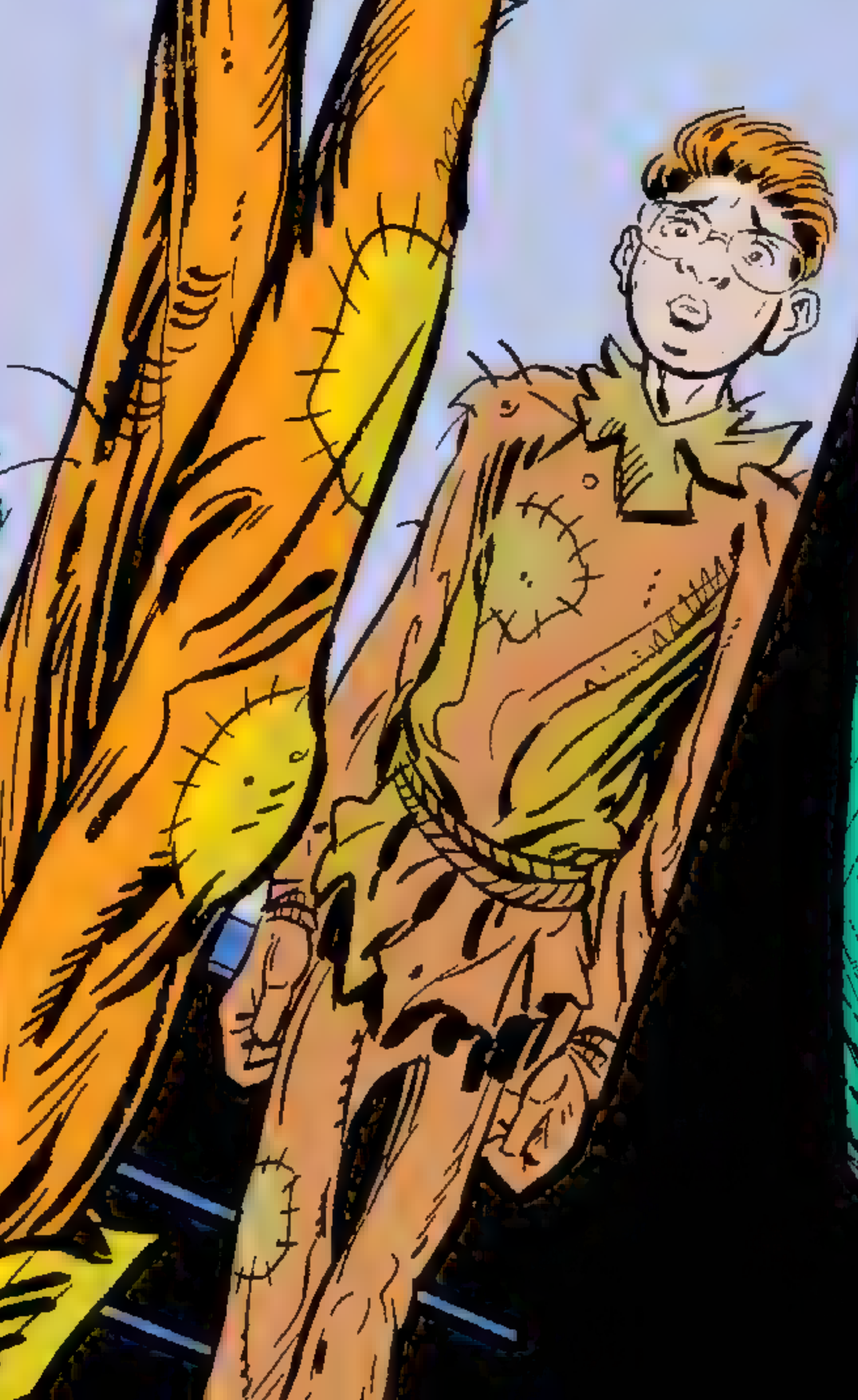
-- I HAVE A TANKER FULL
OF FEAR-GAS CENTRALLY
POSITIONED! UNLESS YOU
OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE MY
GODHOOD, IT WILL BE
DETONATED AT MIDNIGHT
PRECISELY!

TIME IS
RUNNING OUT,
GORDON. THIS
IS YOUR LAST
WARNING!

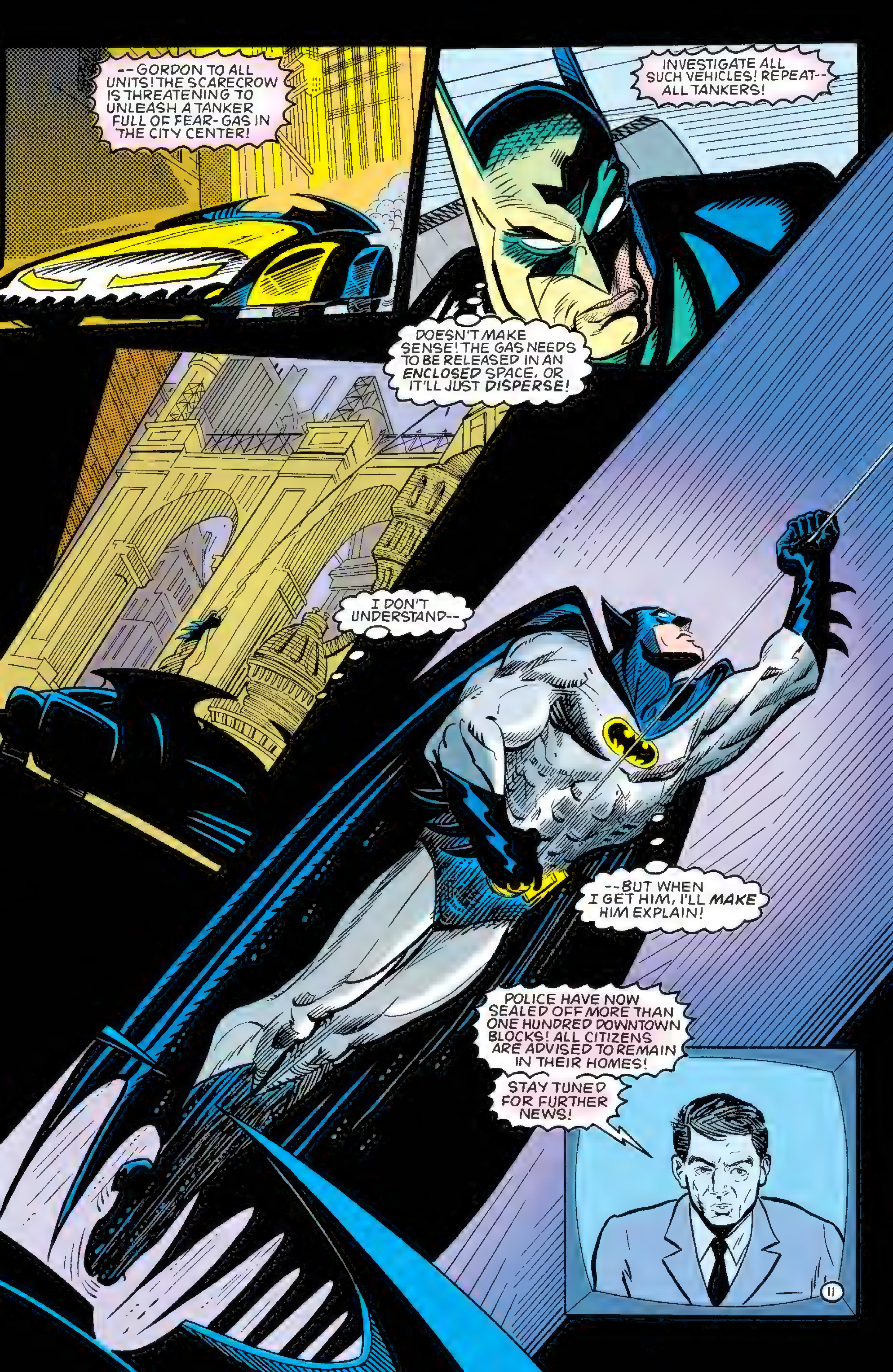
SCARECROW--
YOU'RE BEING
ILLOGICAL! HOW
ON EARTH CAN
WE MAKE YOU
A GOD...?!

CLICK

SCARECROW...?



IT'LL WORK
OUT SOMEHOW.
IT'S GOT TO
WORK OUT!



-- GORDON TO ALL
UNITS! THE SCARECROW
IS THREATENING TO
UNLEASH A TANKER
FULL OF FEAR-GAS IN
THE CITY CENTER!

INVESTIGATE ALL
SUCH VEHICLES! REPEAT--
ALL TANKERS!

DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE! THE GAS NEEDS
TO BE RELEASED IN AN
ENCLOSED SPACE, OR
IT'LL JUST DISPERSE!

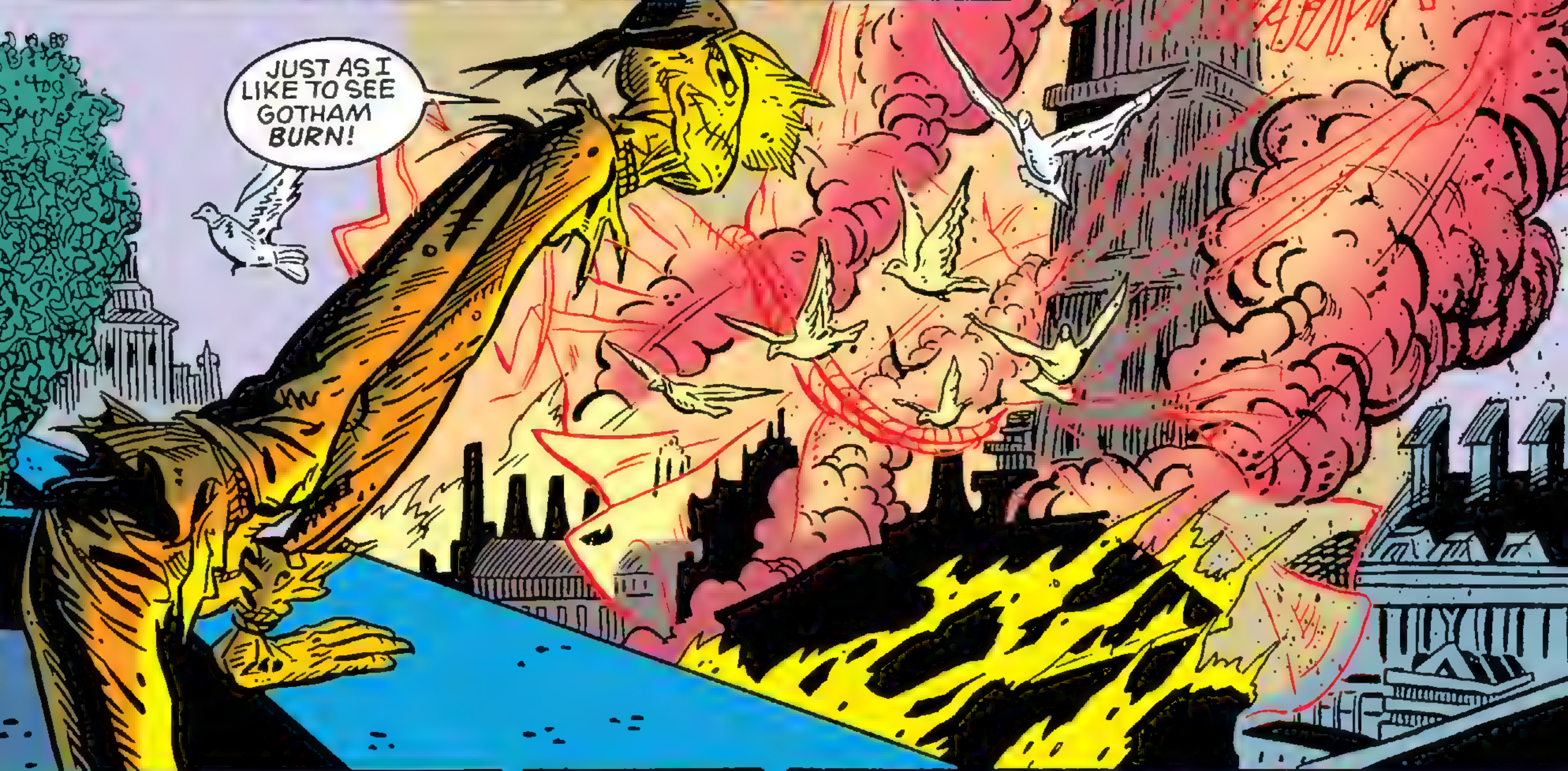
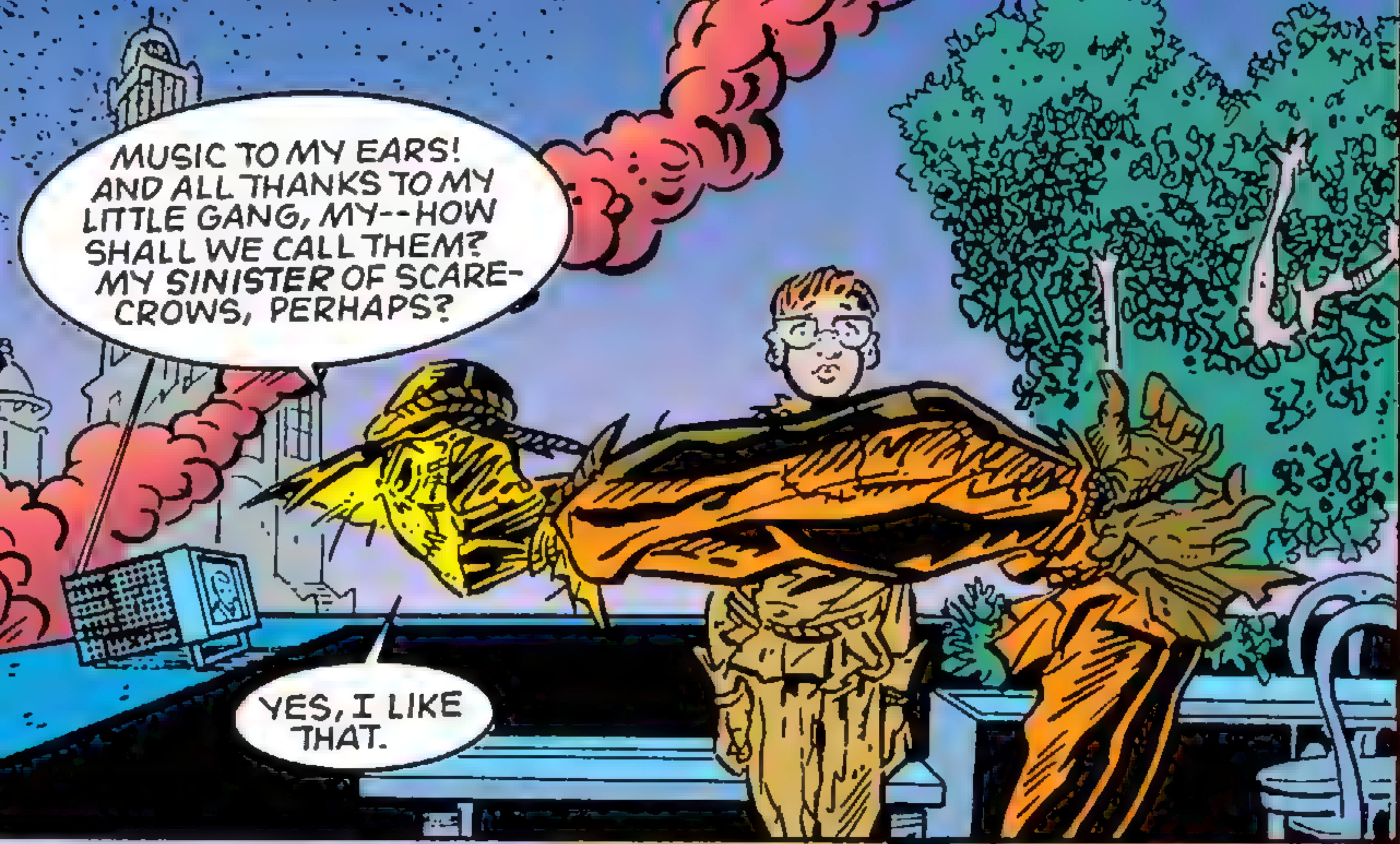
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND--

-- BUT WHEN
I GET HIM, I'LL MAKE
HIM EXPLAIN!

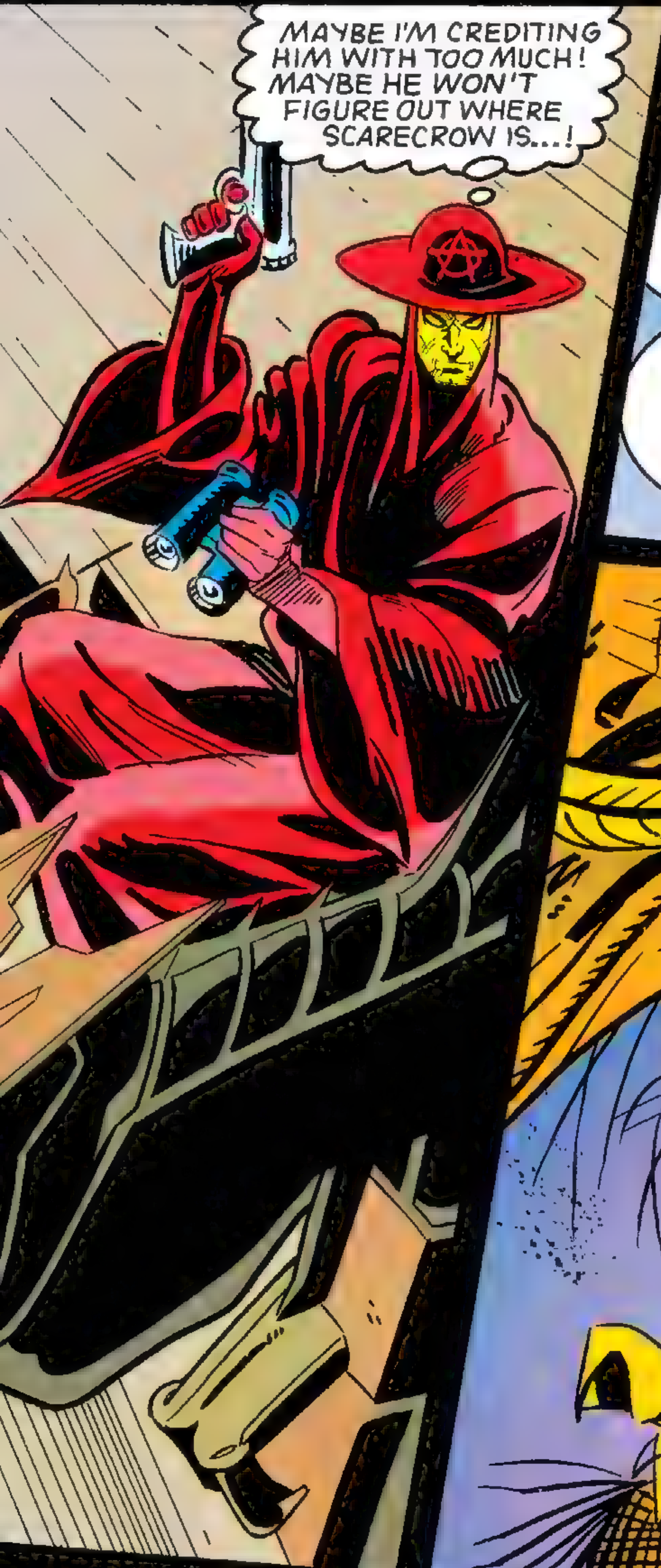
POLICE HAVE NOW
SEALED OFF MORE THAN
ONE HUNDRED DOWNTOWN
BLOCKS! ALL CITIZENS
ARE ADVISED TO REMAIN
IN THEIR HOMES!

STAY TUNED
FOR FURTHER
NEWS!

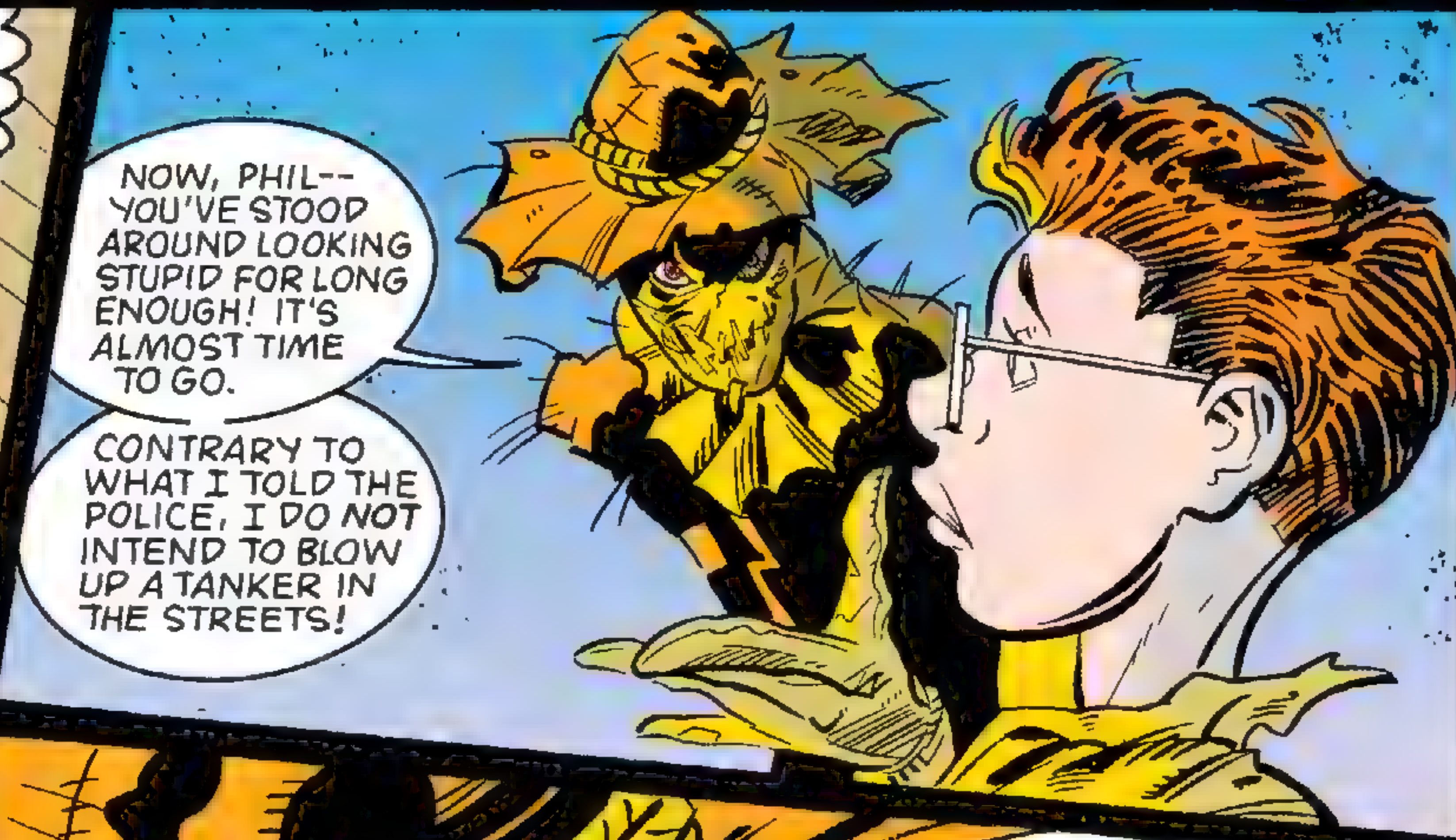




COME ON, BATMAN! WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?

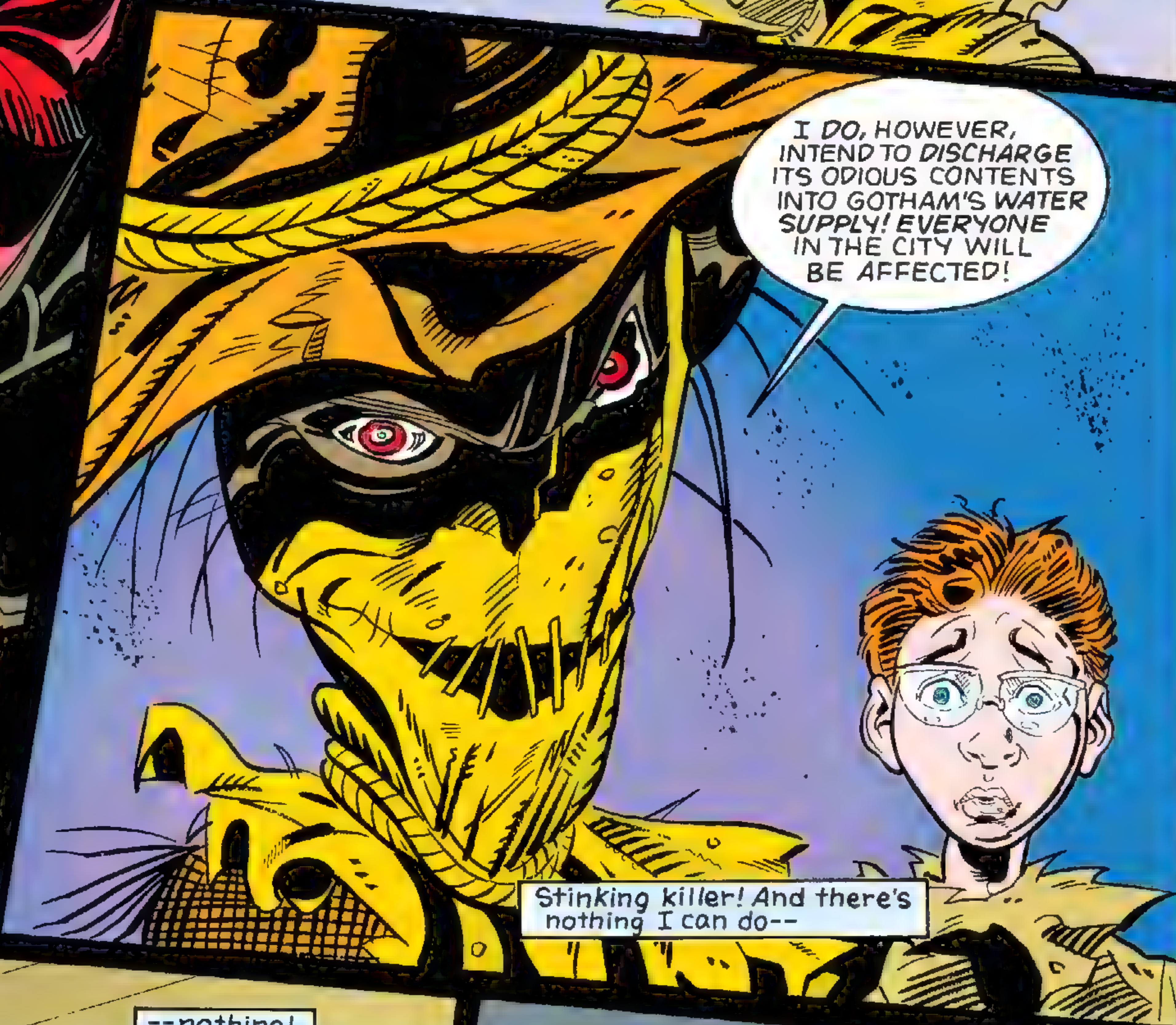


MAYBE I'M CREDITING HIM WITH TOO MUCH! MAYBE HE WON'T FIGURE OUT WHERE SCARECROW IS...!



NOW, PHIL-- YOU'VE STOOD AROUND LOOKING STUPID FOR LONG ENOUGH! IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO.

CONTRARY TO WHAT I TOLD THE POLICE, I DO NOT INTEND TO BLOW UP A TANKER IN THE STREETS!



I DO, HOWEVER, INTEND TO DISCHARGE ITS ODIOS CONTENTS INTO GOTHAM'S WATER SUPPLY! EVERYONE IN THE CITY WILL BE AFFECTED!

Stinking killer! And there's nothing I can do--



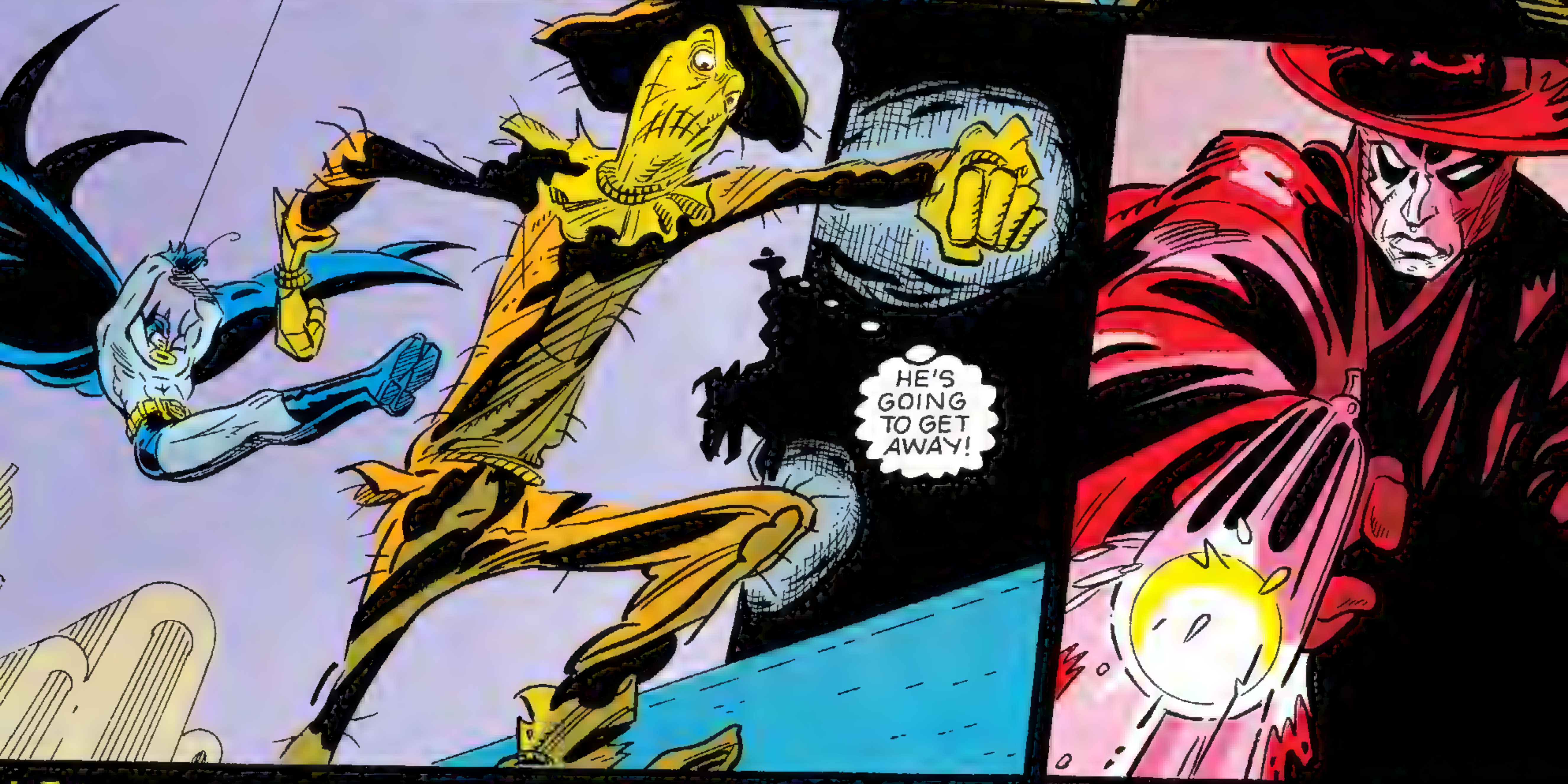
--nothing!

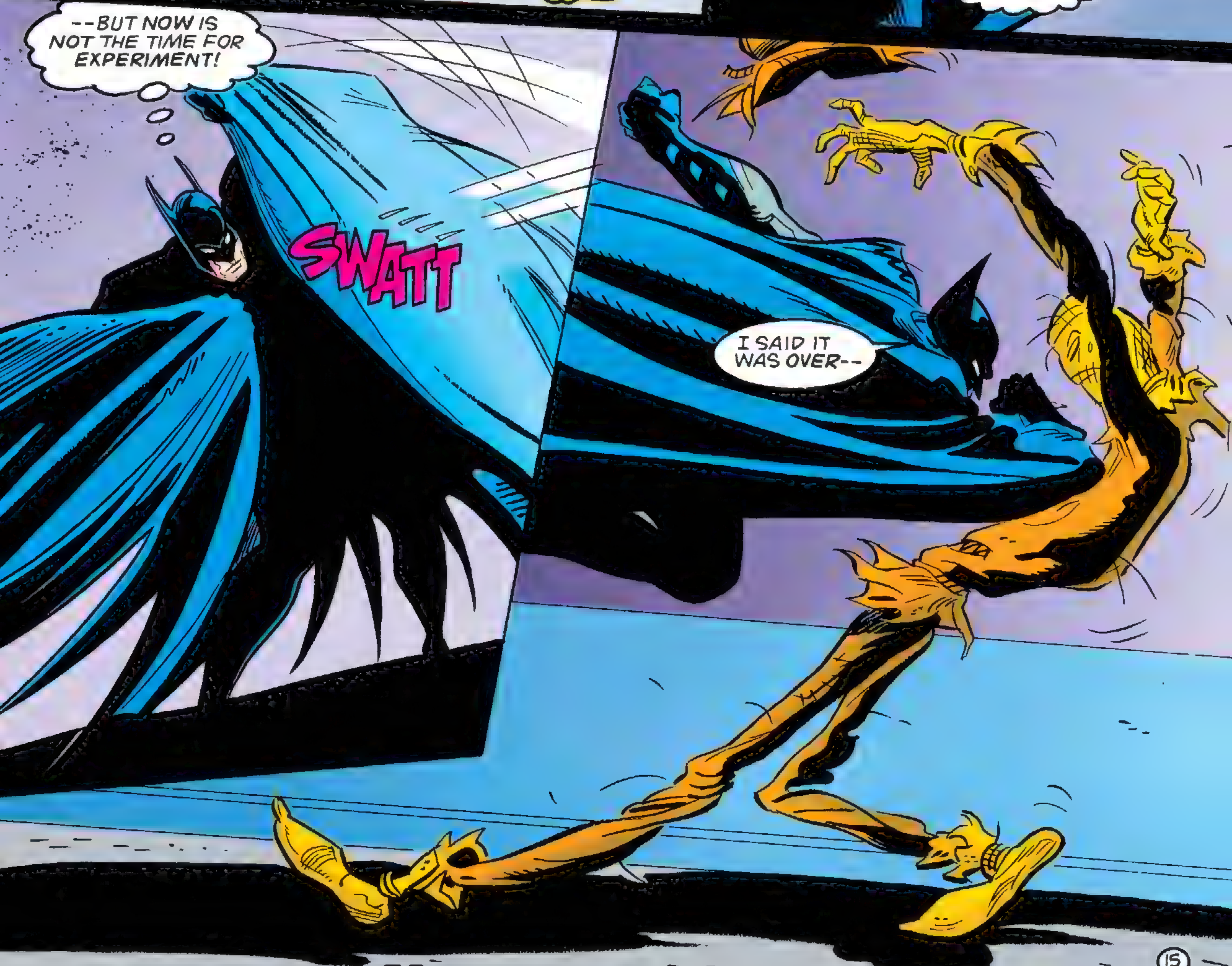
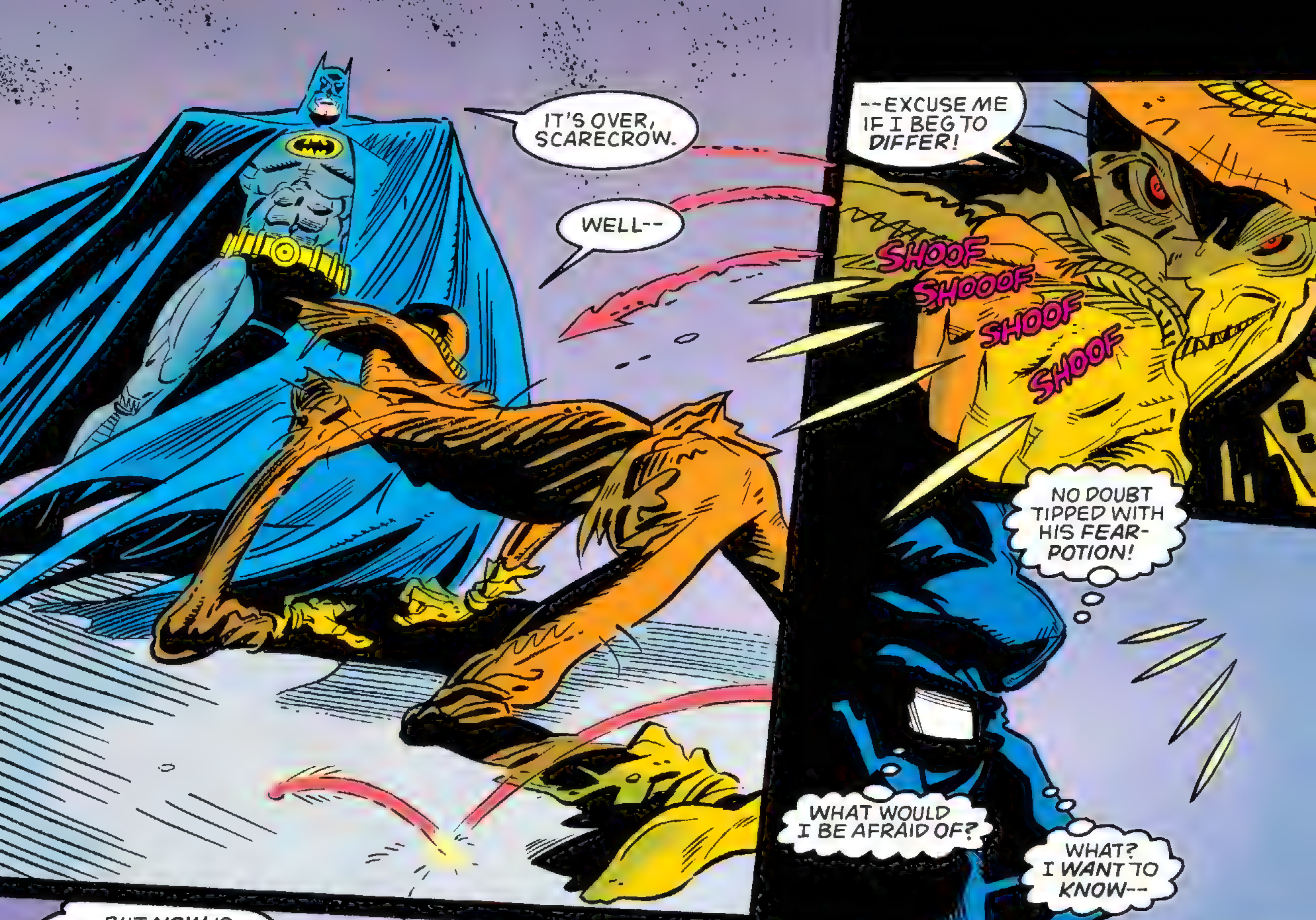
I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! THE FLARE BROUGHT HIM LAST TIME I USED IT--

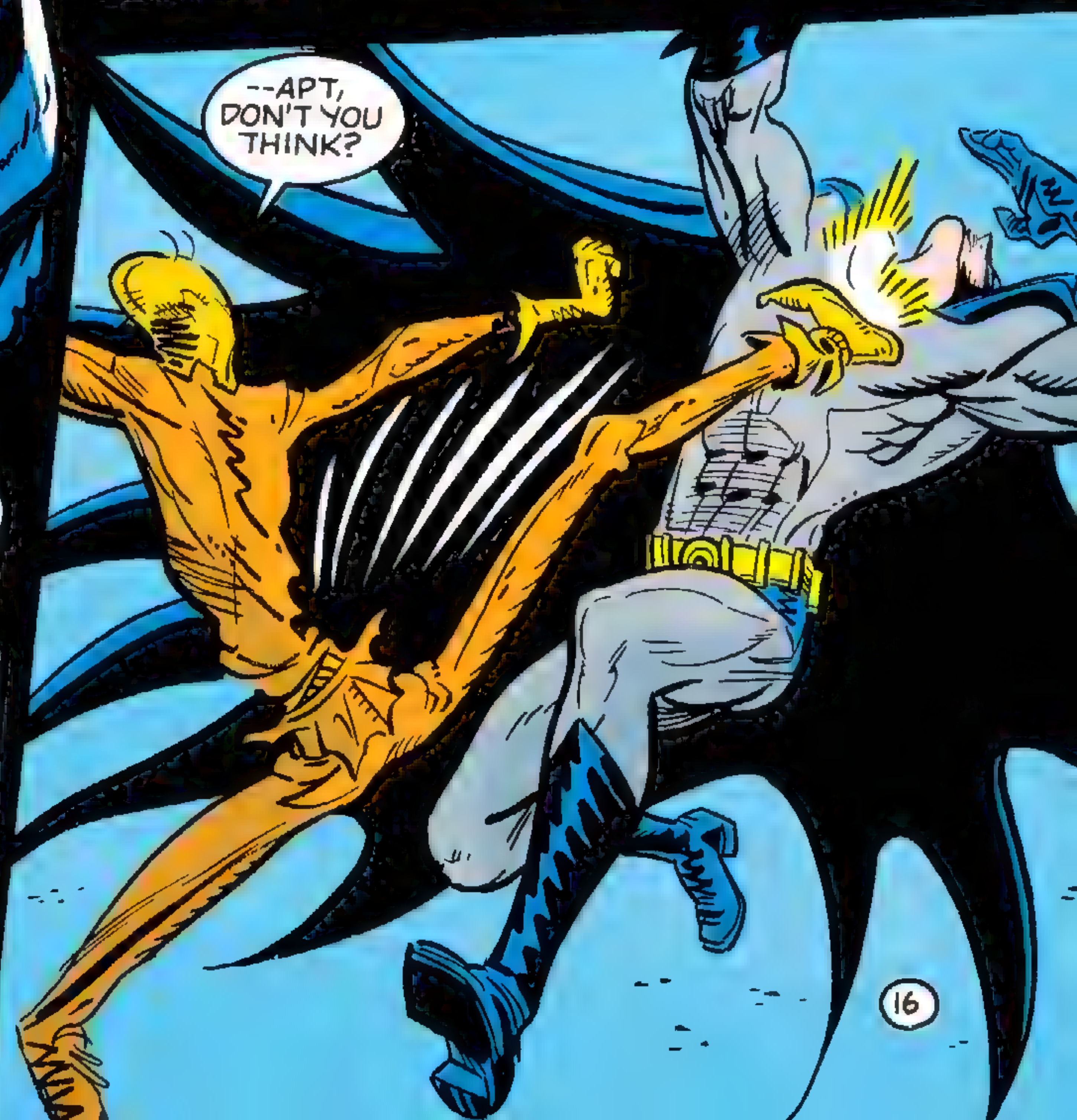
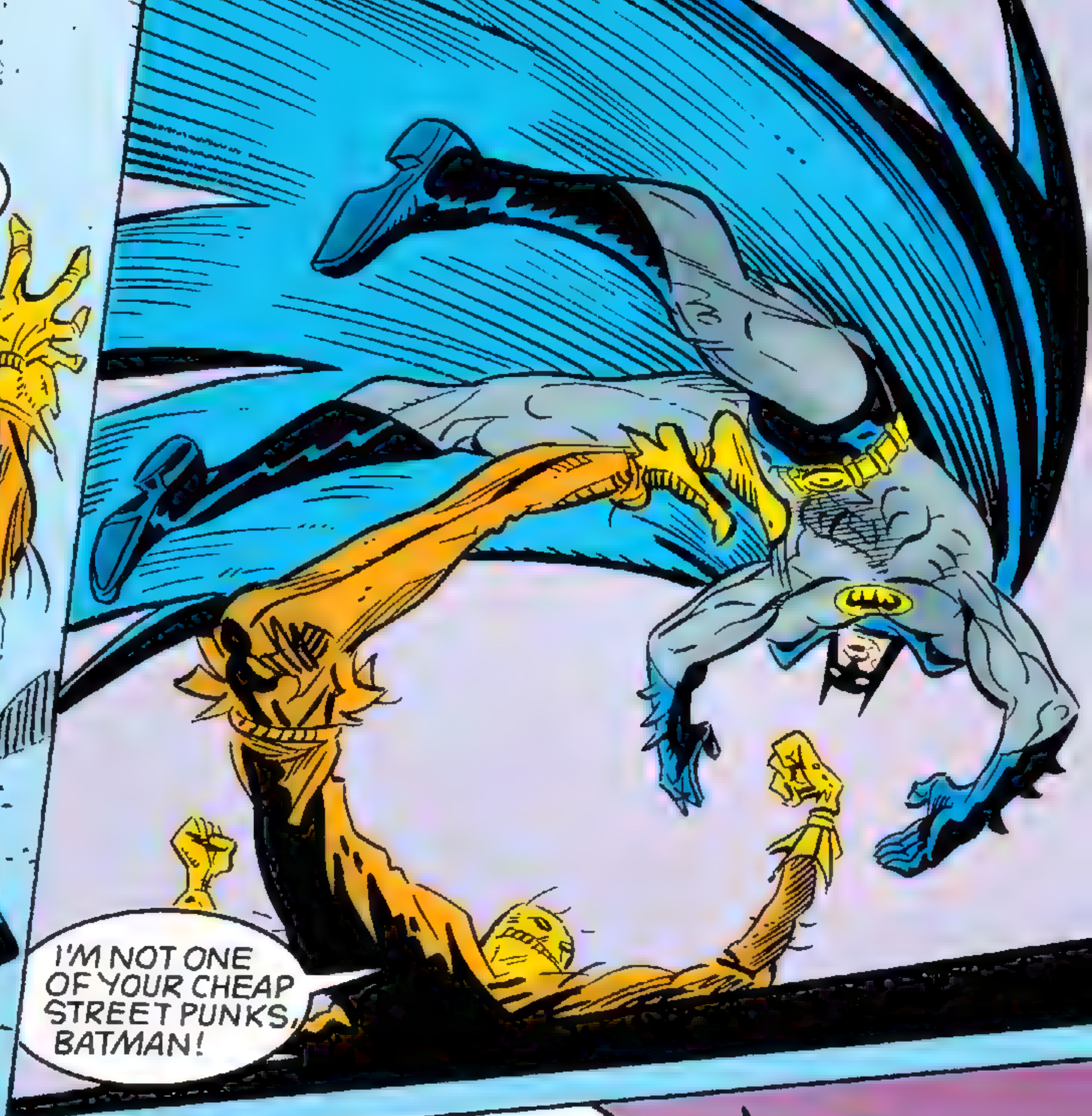
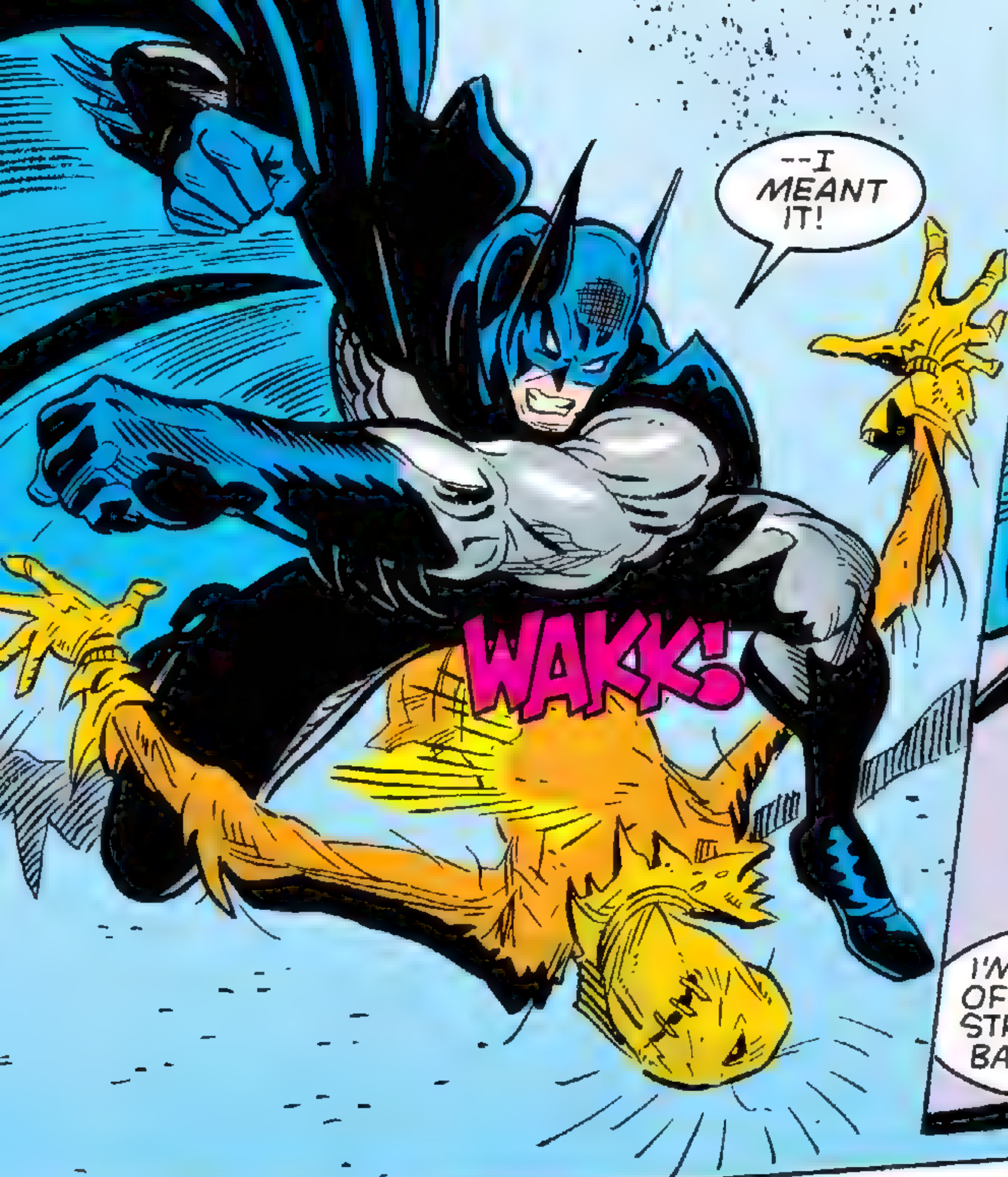


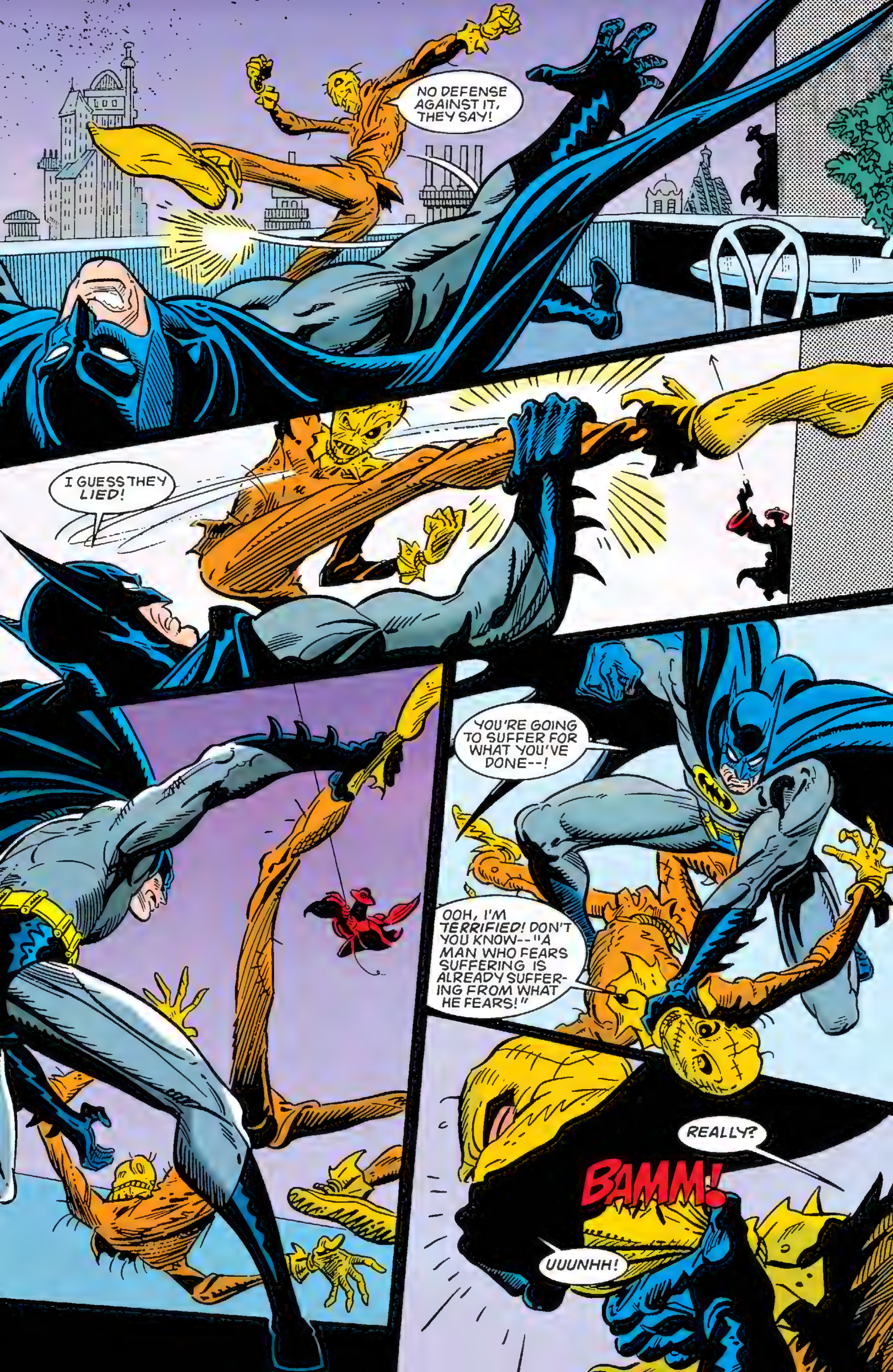
--EUREKA!

AS THE SPIDER SAID TO THE FLY!









NO DEFENSE
AGAINST IT,
THEY SAY!

I GUESS THEY
LIED!

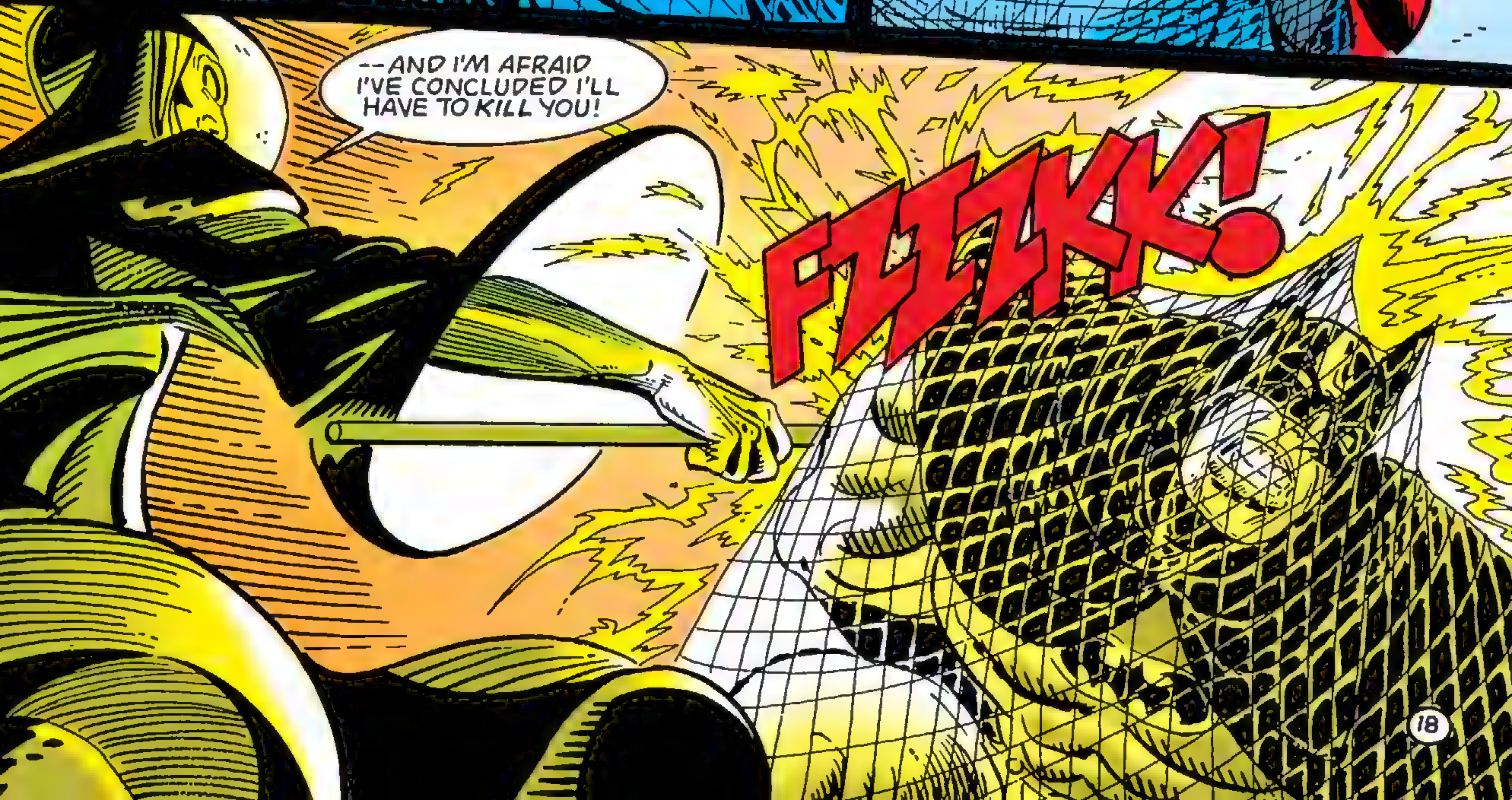
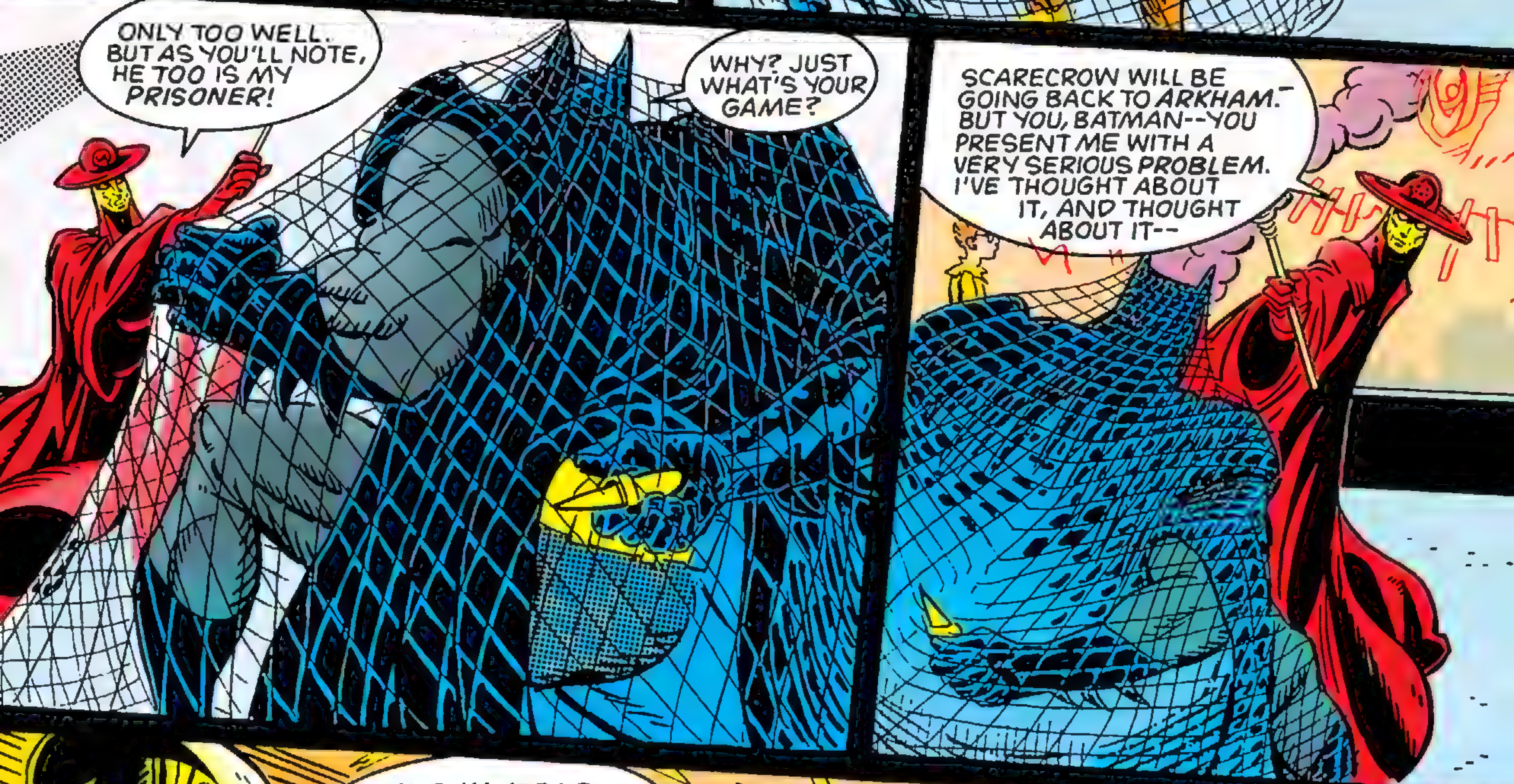
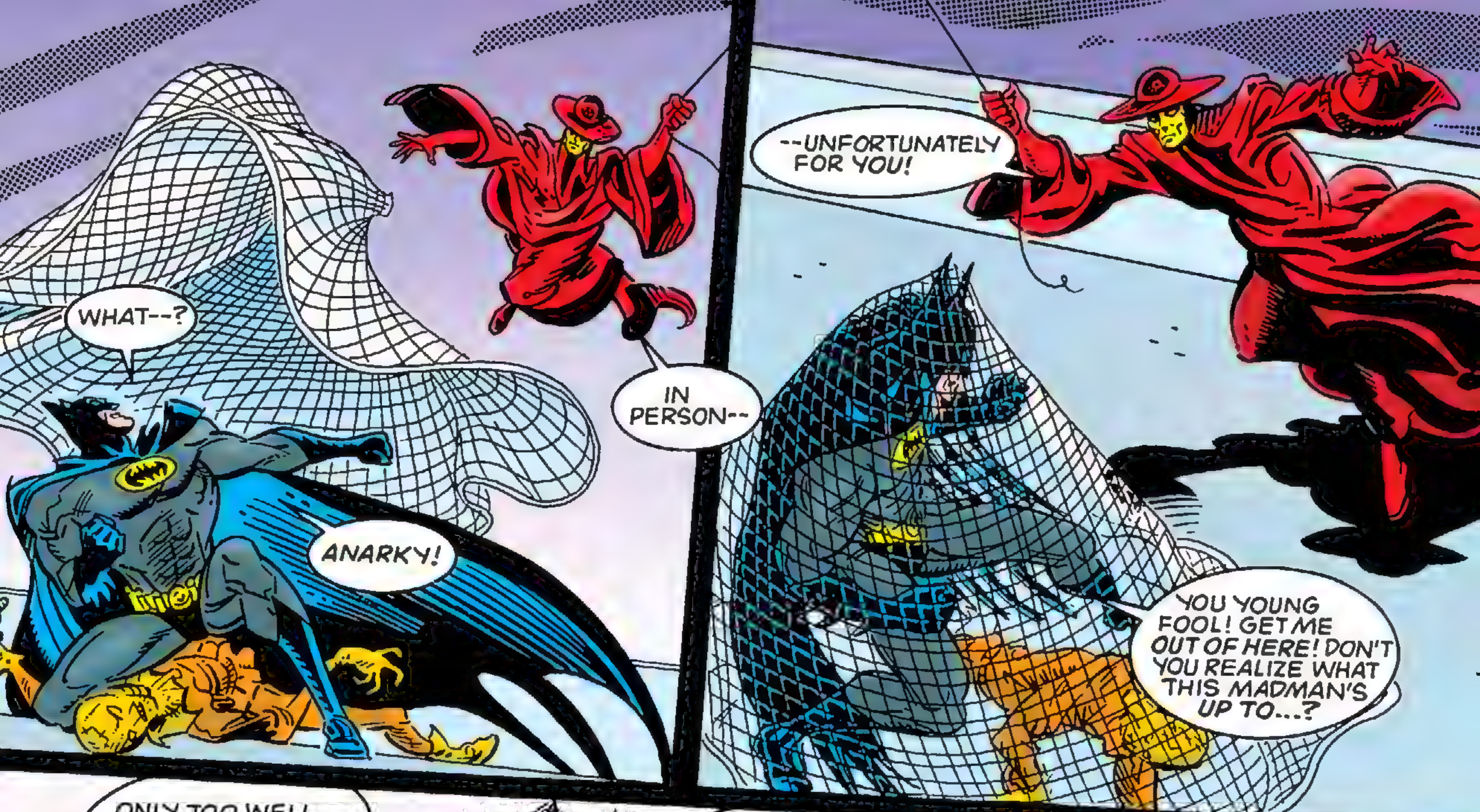
YOU'RE GOING
TO SUFFER FOR
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE--!

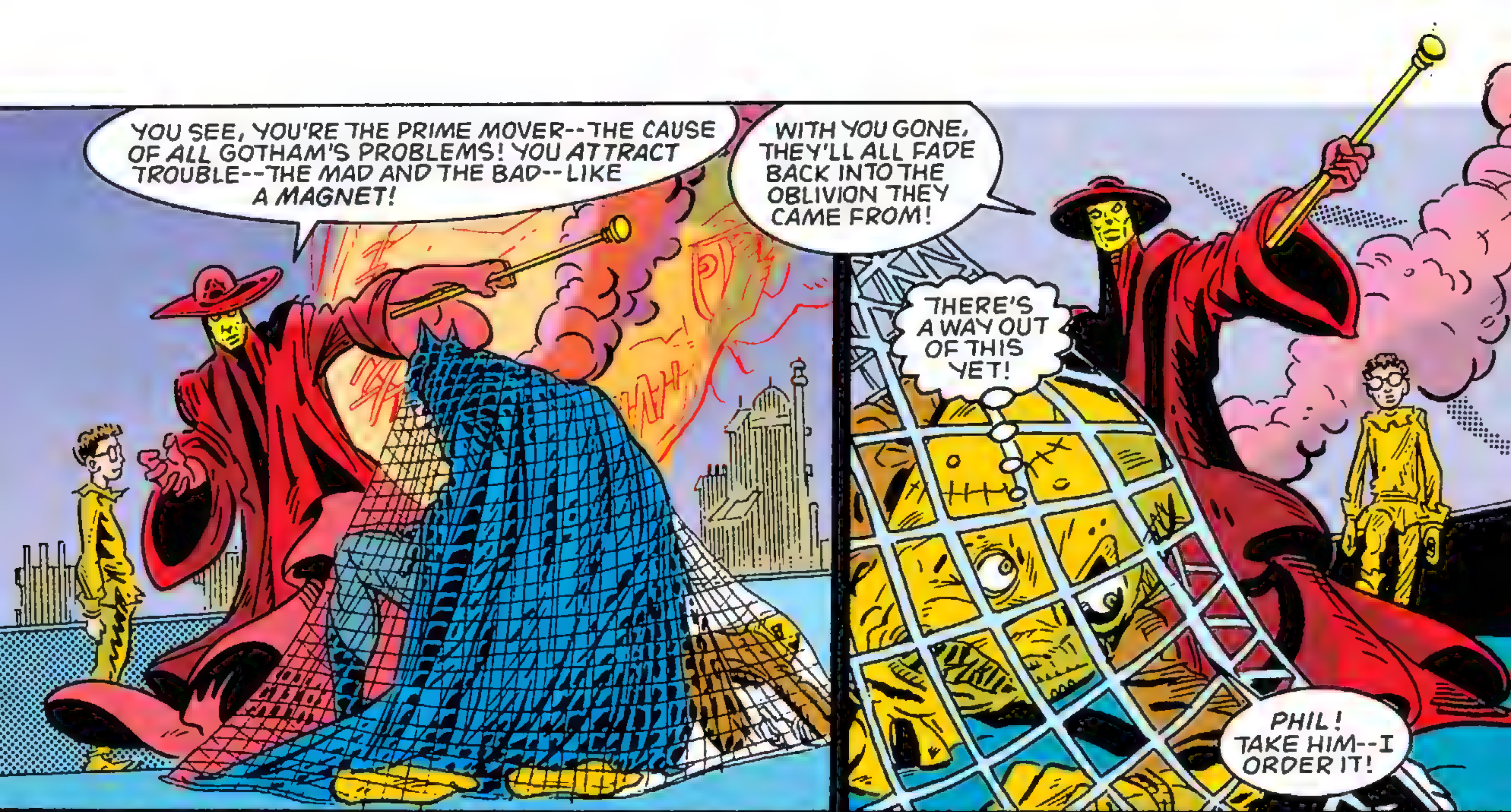
OOH, I'M
TERRIFIED! DON'T
YOU KNOW-- "A
MAN WHO FEARS
SUFFERING IS
ALREADY SUFFER-
ING FROM WHAT
HE FEARS!"

REALLY?

BAMM!

UUUNHH!



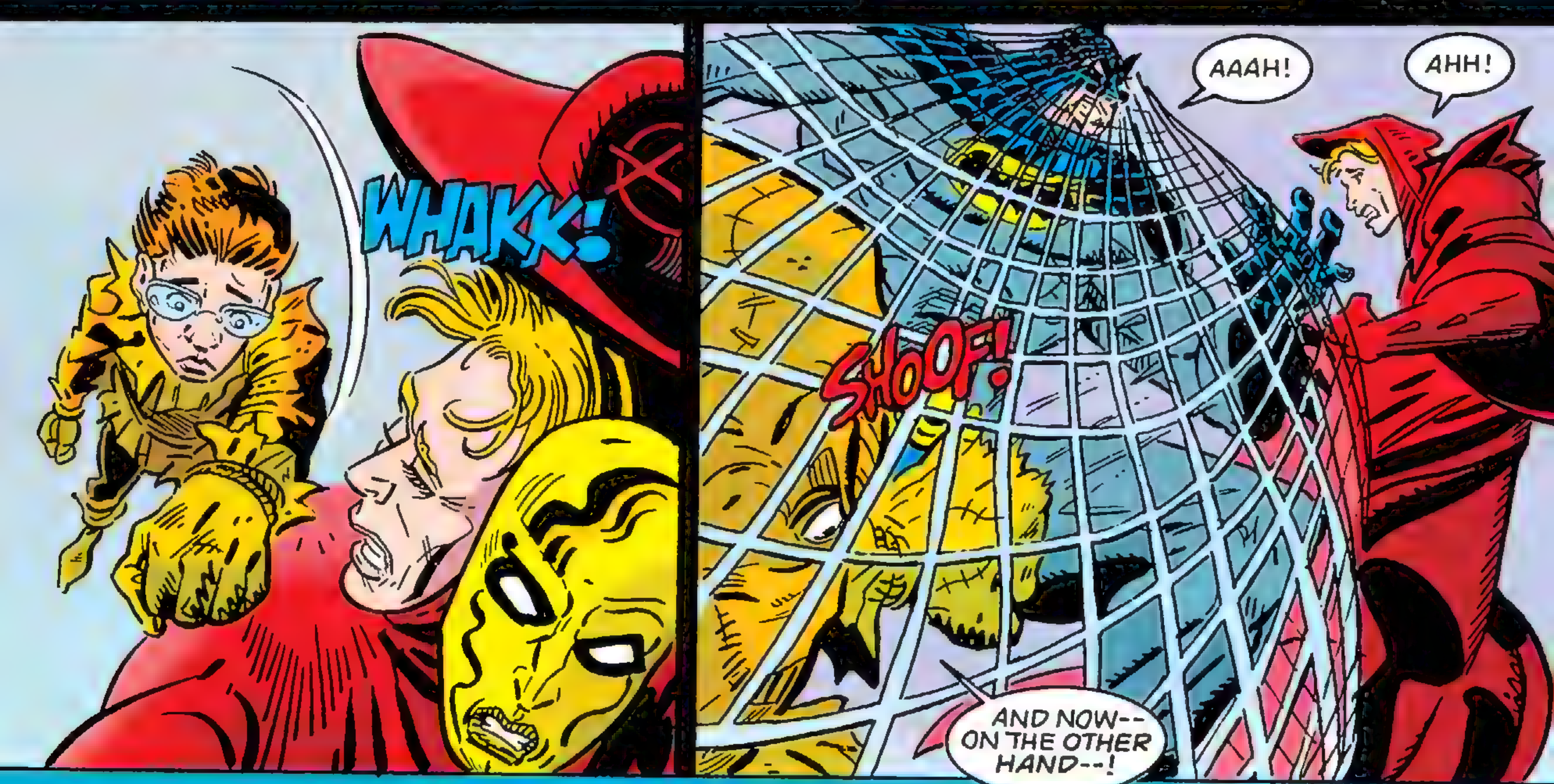


YOU SEE, YOU'RE THE PRIME MOVER--THE CAUSE OF ALL GOTHAM'S PROBLEMS! YOU ATTRACT TROUBLE--THE MAD AND THE BAD--LIKE A MAGNET!

WITH YOU GONE, THEY'LL ALL FADE BACK INTO THE OBLIVION THEY CAME FROM!

THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS YET!

PHIL! TAKE HIM--I ORDER IT!



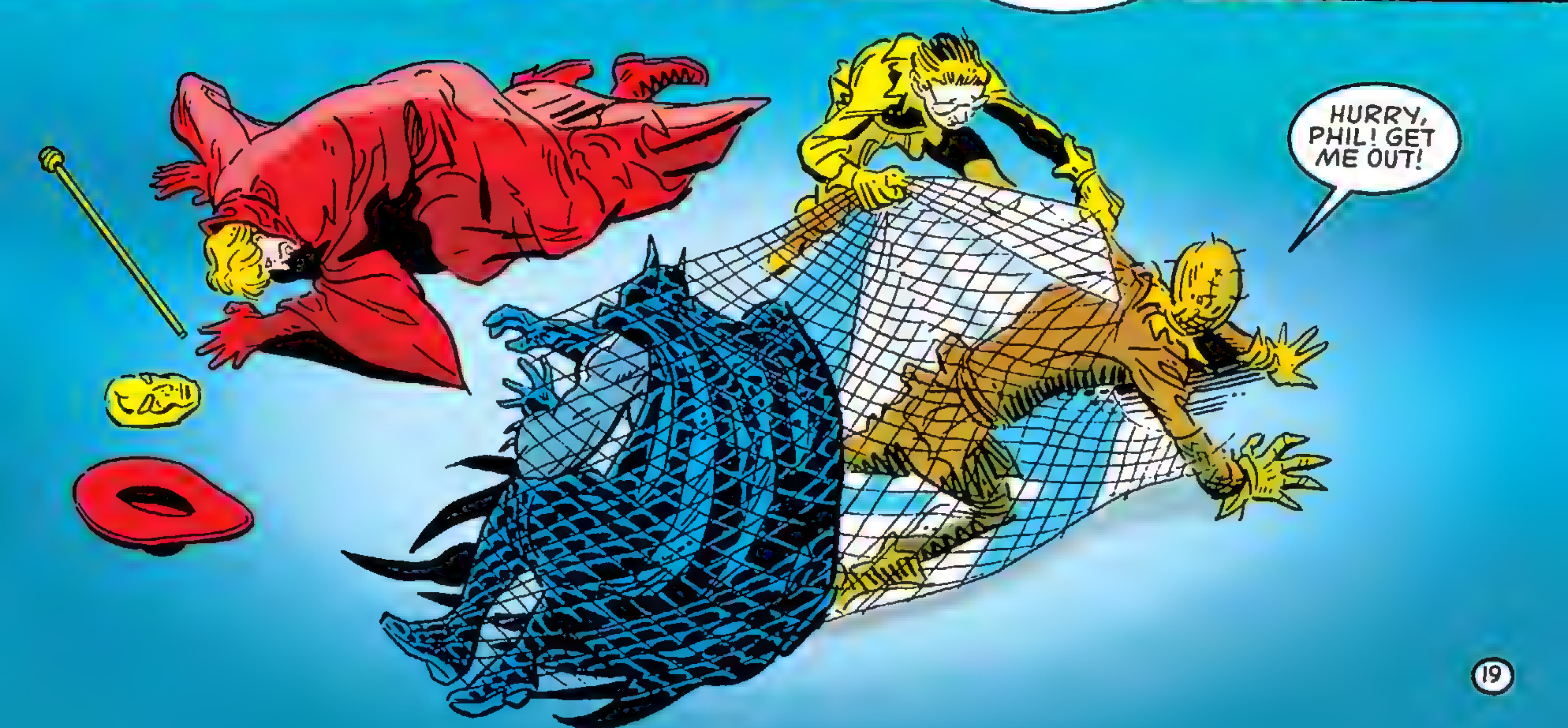
WHAKK!

SHOOOF!

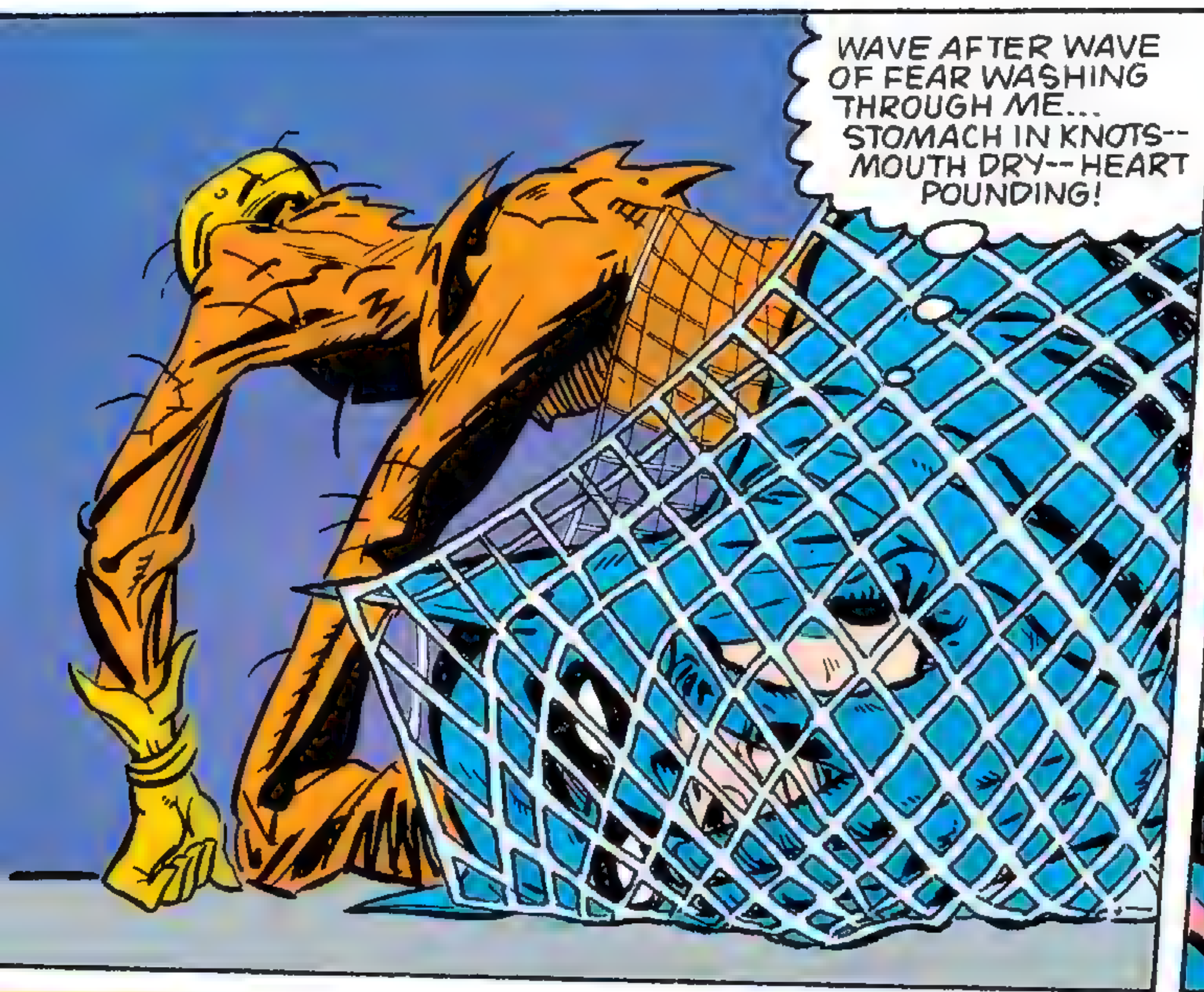
AAAH!

AHH!

AND NOW--ON THE OTHER HAND--!



HURRY, PHIL! GET ME OUT!



WAVE AFTER WAVE
OF FEAR WASHING
THROUGH ME...
STOMACH IN KNOTS--
MOUTH DRY-- HEART
POUNING!



WHO AM I? I DON'T KNOW MYSELF!
I'M CLAY, TO BE MOLDED-- A ROBOT,
PROGRAMMED BY THE ORDER OF
SAINT DUMAS! MY MIND-- MY VERY
BEING-- BELONG TO SOME-
ONE ELSE!



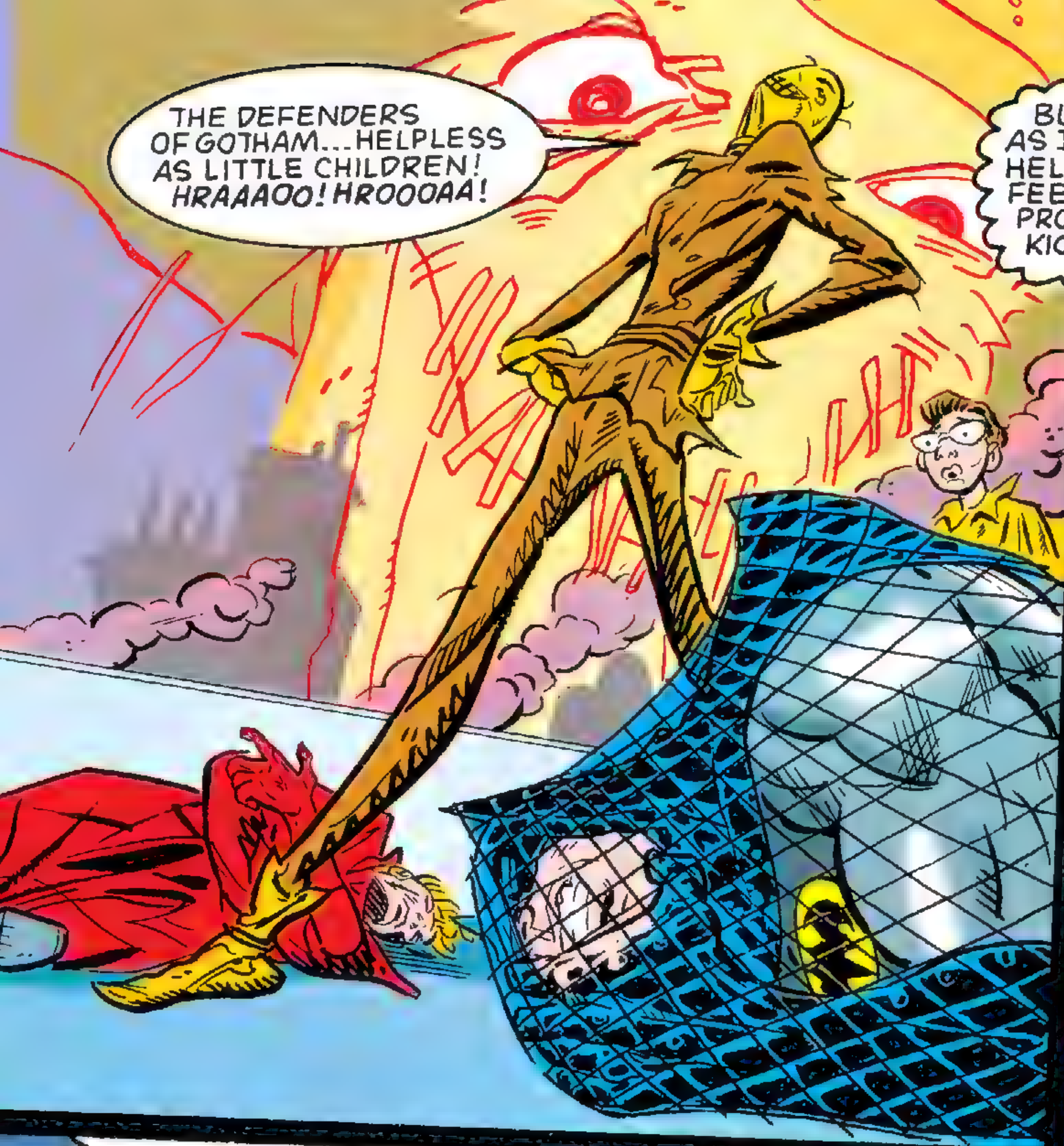
THE WORLD'S
DYING! POISONED SEAS-- CAN'T
BREATHE THE AIR! THE POLITICIANS--
THE BANKERS-- THE CRIMINALS--
THEY'RE SACRIFICING US ALL ON
THE ALTAR OF THEIR GREED!

AND UNDERNEATH
THE MASKS-- WHAT
AM I?

THE ANSWER
ECHOES, SPINNING
IN MY TORTURED
BRAIN--

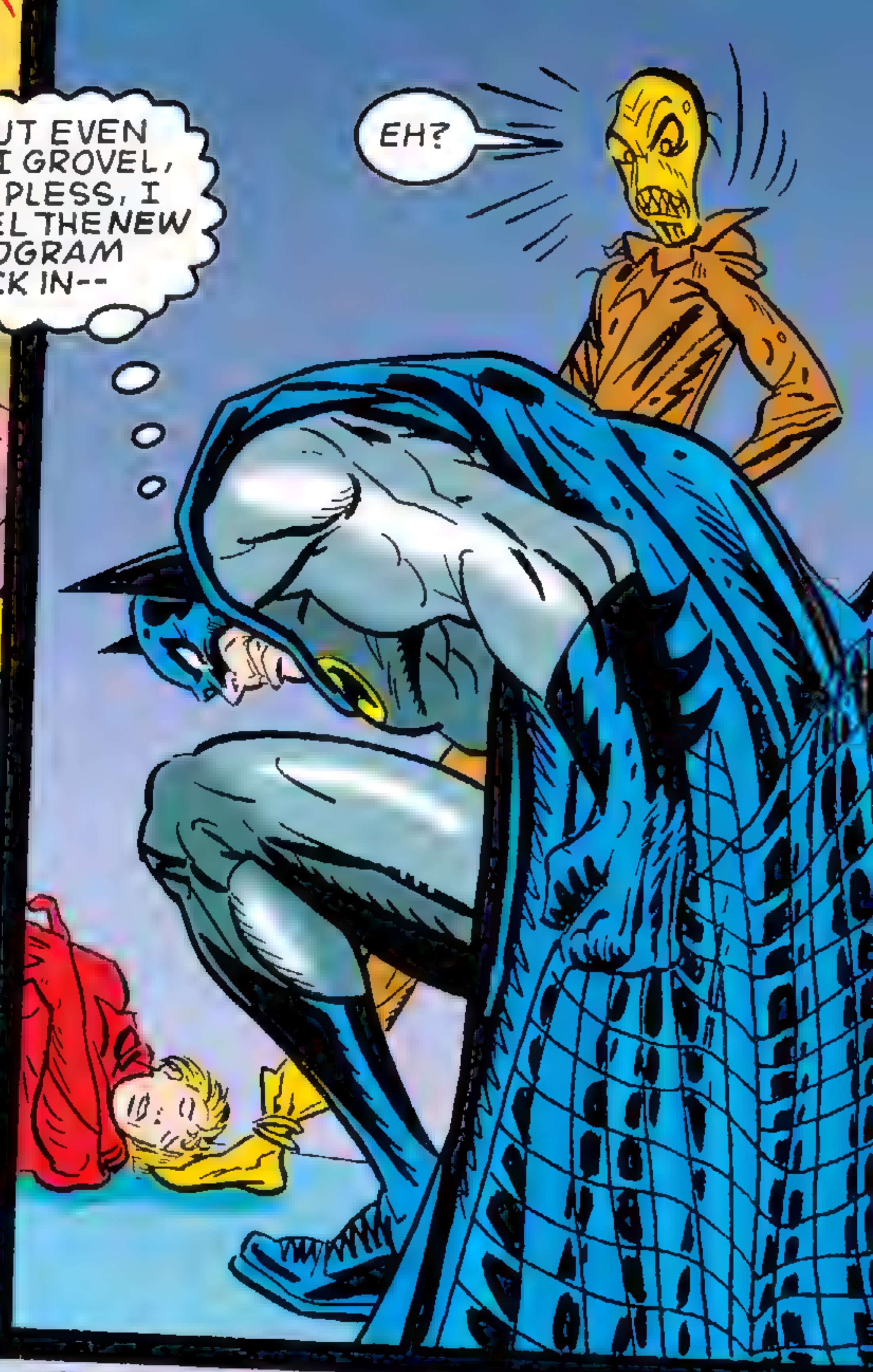
-- NOTHING!
YOU'RE
NOTHING AT
ALL!

PLEASE...
PLEASE DON'T
KILL OUR
PLANET...!



THE DEFENDERS
OF GOTHAM...HELPLESS
AS LITTLE CHILDREN!
HRAAAOO! HROOOAA!

BUT EVEN
AS I GROVEL,
HELPLESS, I
FEEL THE NEW
PROGRAM
KICK IN--



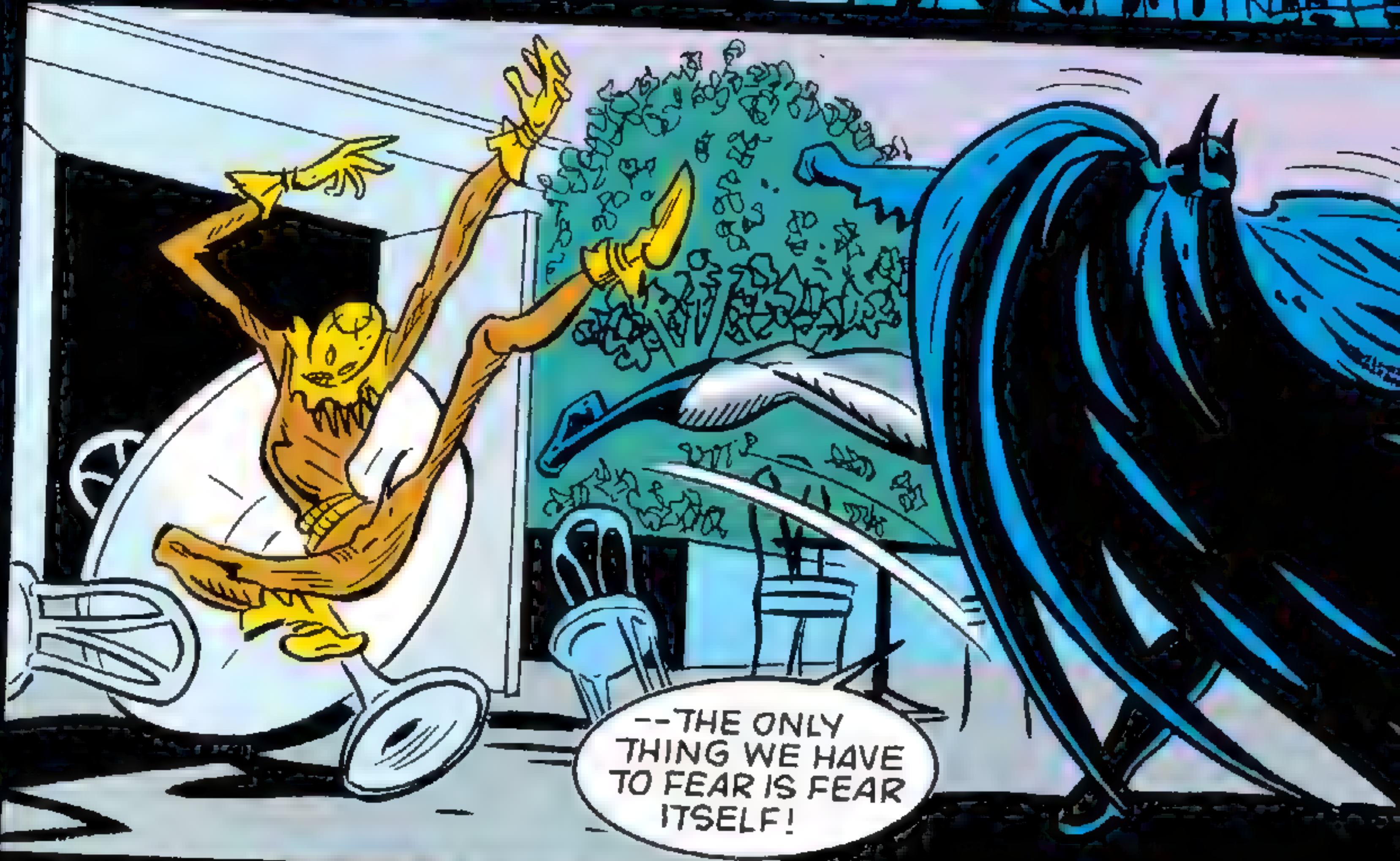
EH?



--DAMN YOU,
SAINT DUMAS! CAN'T I
EVEN BE AFRAID?

BUT-- IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE! THAT'S
CONCENTRATED FEAR!
THE AMOUNT YOU
TOOK, YOU SHOULD
BE OUT FOR AN
HOUR!

SOMEONE
ONCE SAID--



--THE ONLY
THING WE HAVE
TO FEAR IS FEAR
ITSELF!



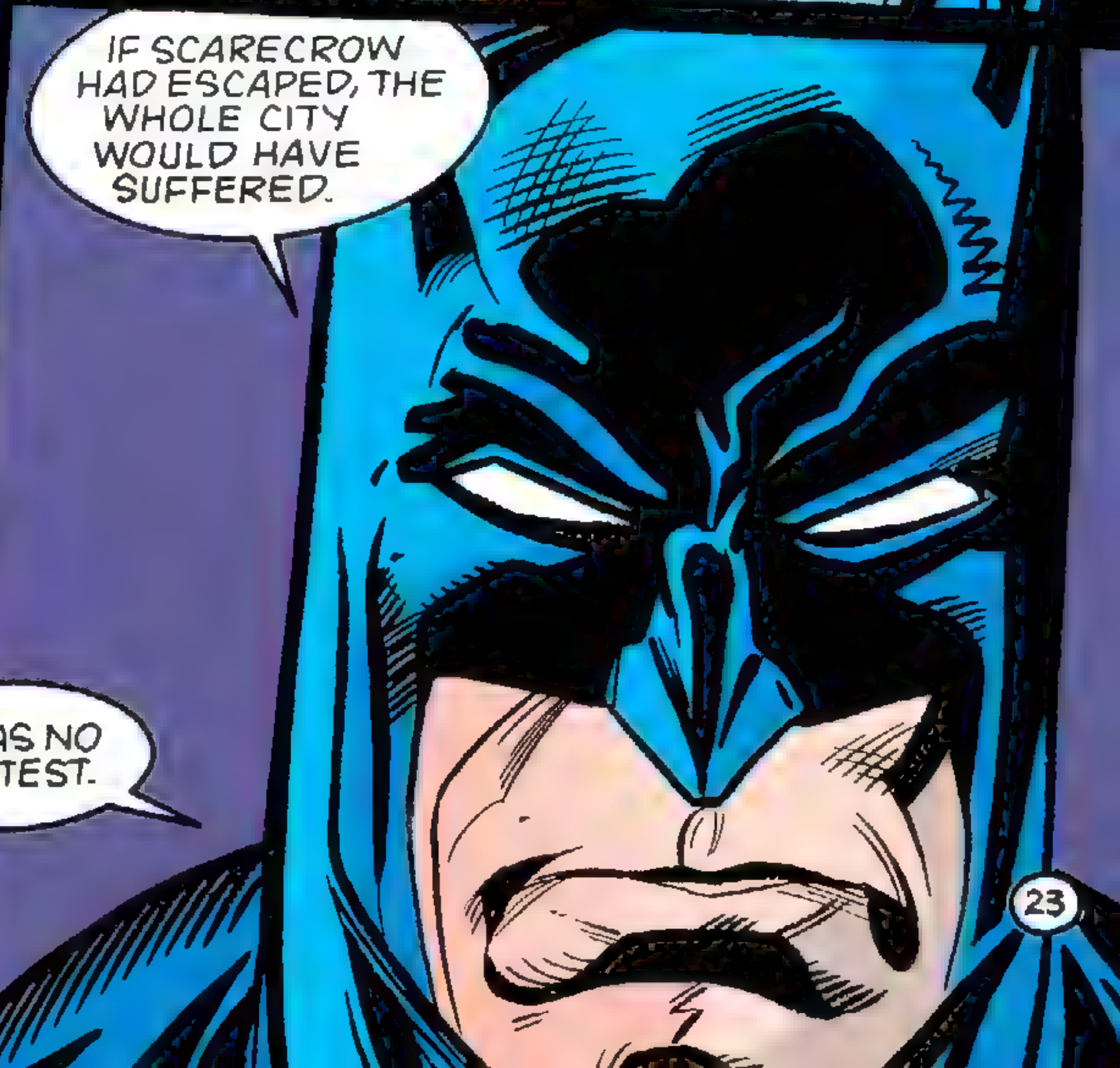
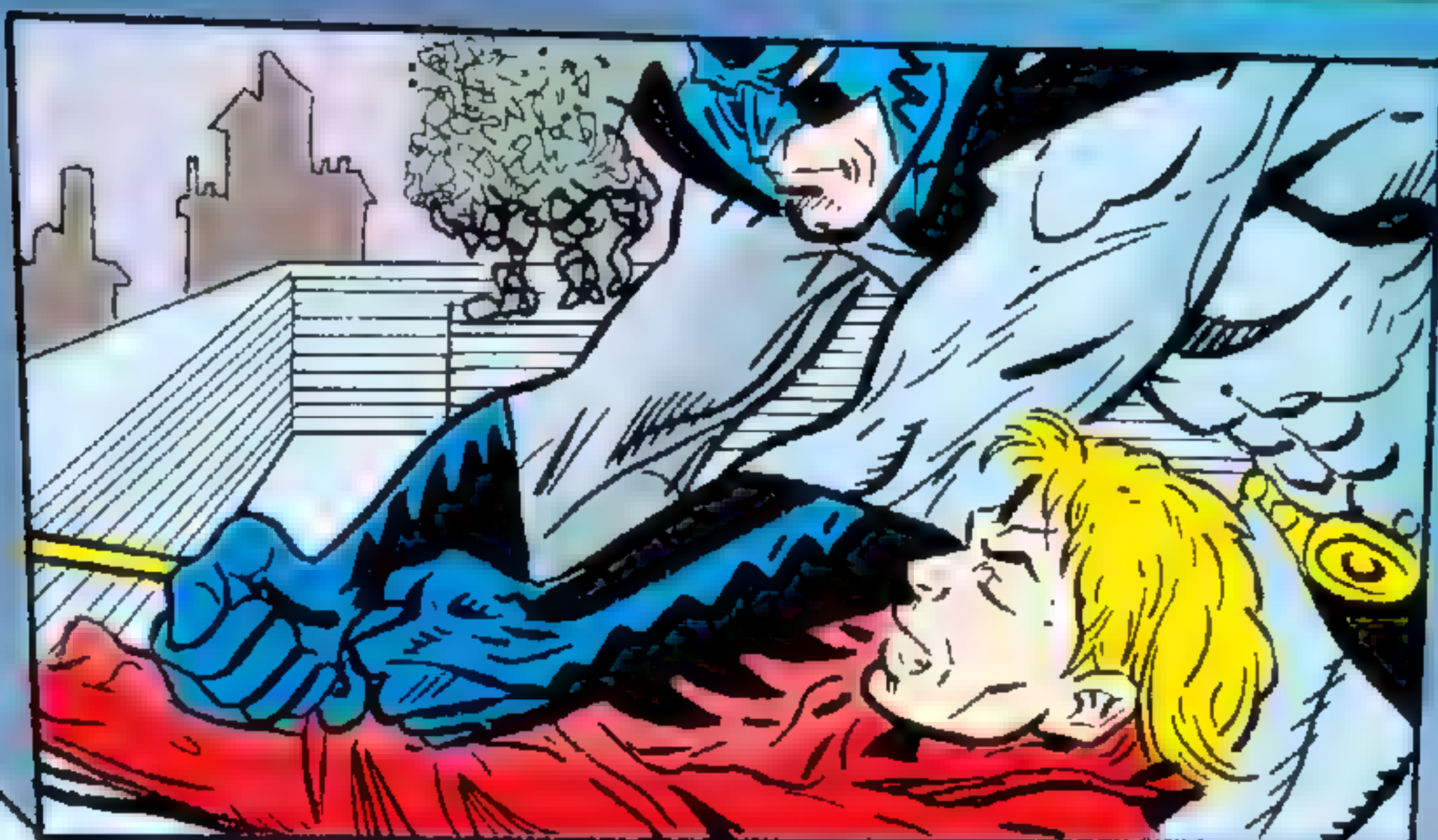
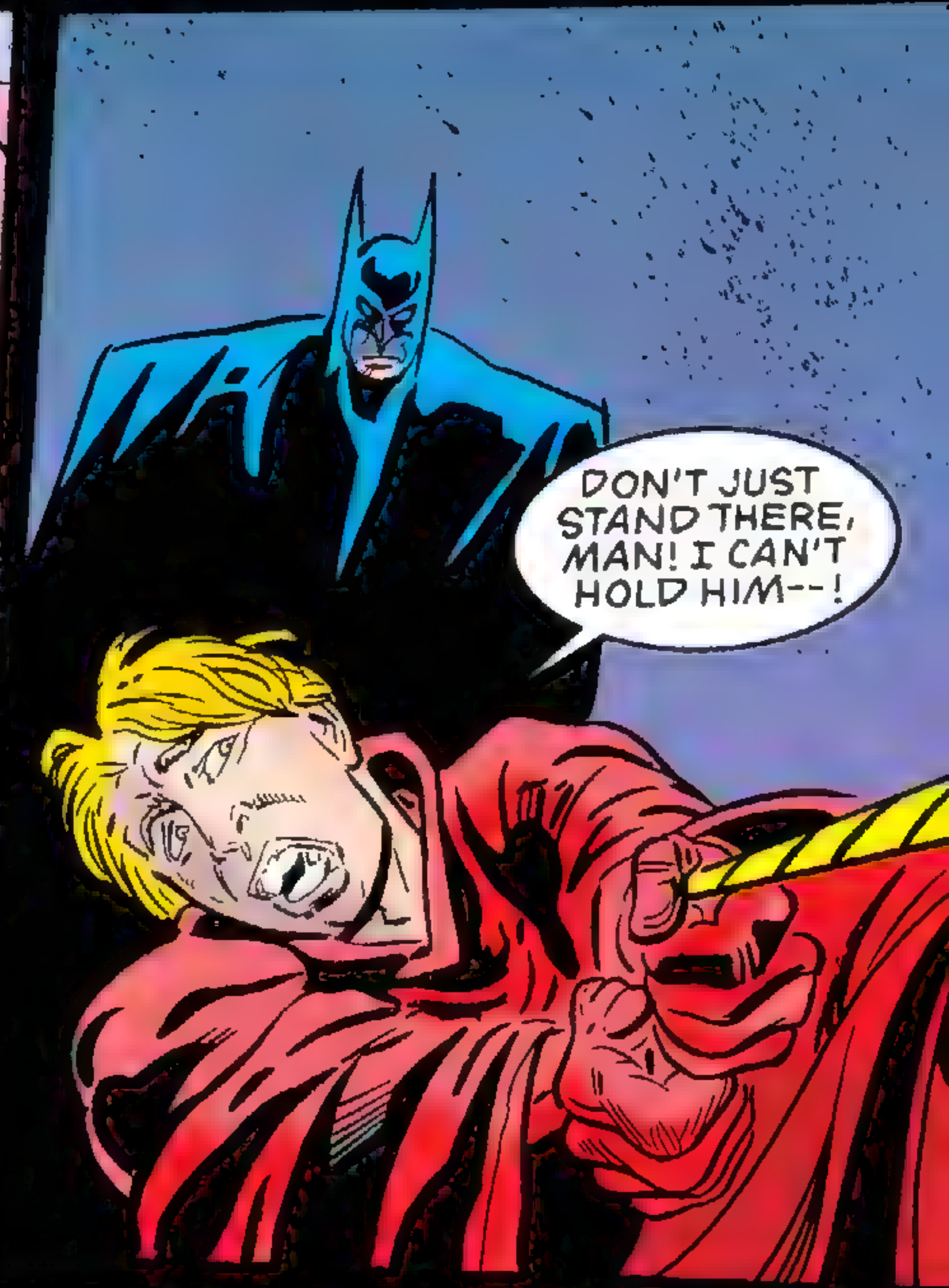
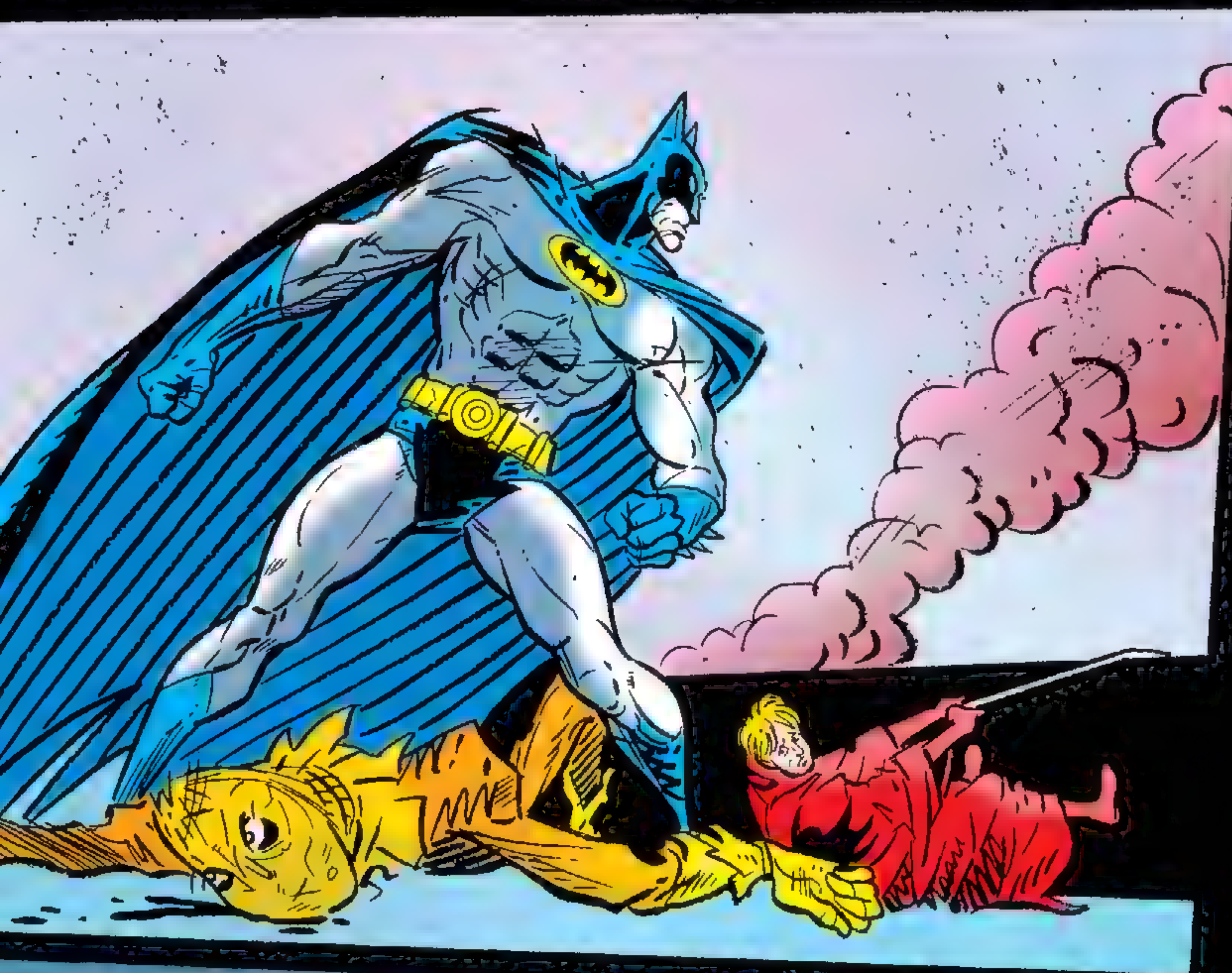
ON YOUR FEET.
YOU MAY BE
INSANE-- BUT
YOU'RE NOT
SO CRAZY I
CAN'T GIVE
YOU THE
BEATING
YOU
DESERVE!

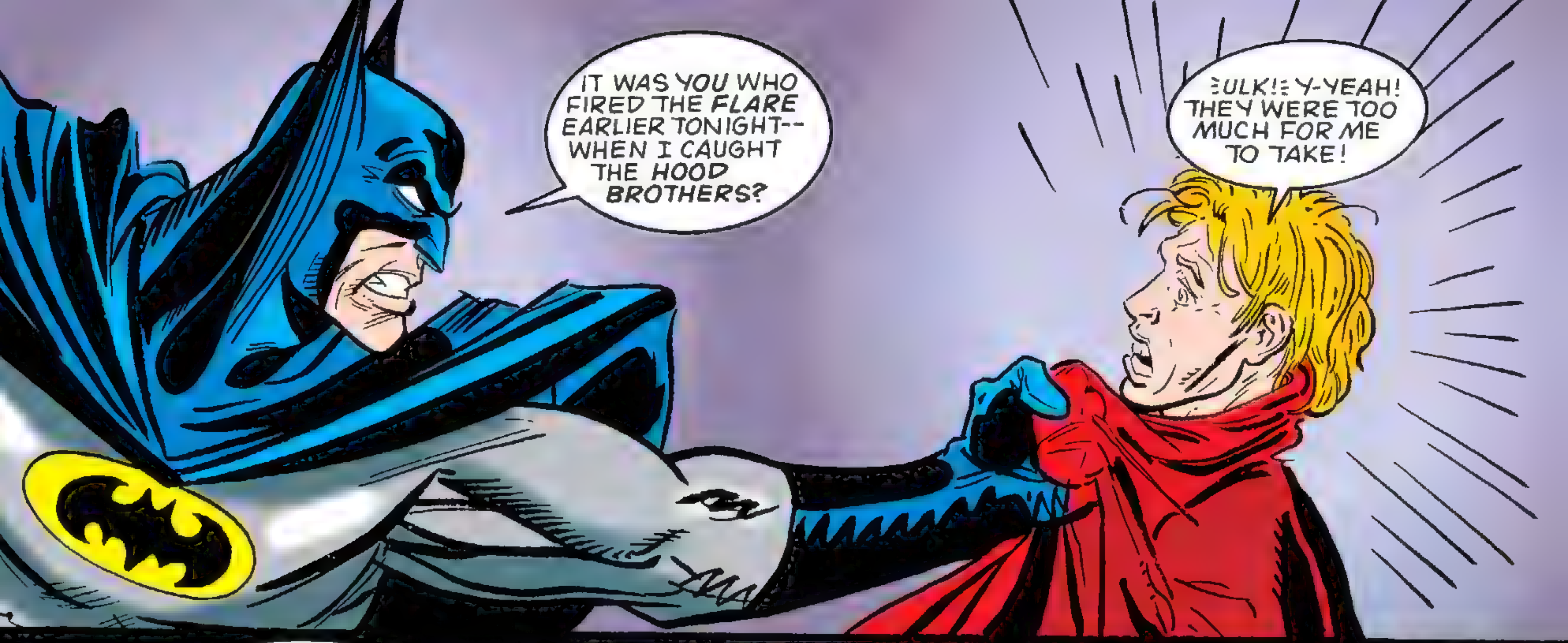
GUESS AGAIN,
BATMAN! ONE THING
I CAN ALWAYS COUNT
ON-- YOUR CODE
OF HONOR!



PHIL!
THROW
YOURSELF
OFF THE
ROOF!

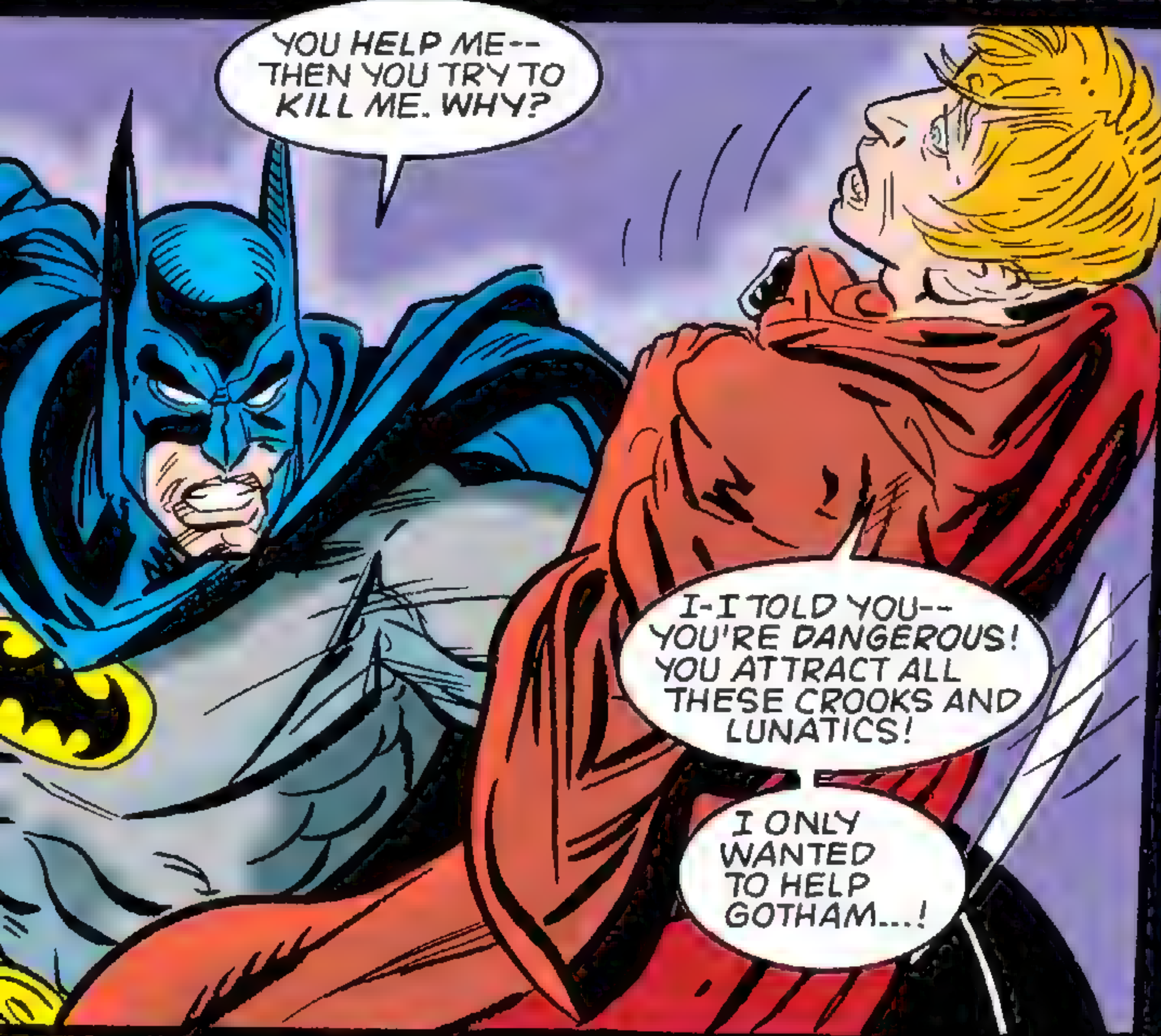






IT WAS YOU WHO FIRED THE FLARE EARLIER TONIGHT-- WHEN I CAUGHT THE HOOD BROTHERS?

DUCK!! Y-YEAH! THEY WERE TOO MUCH FOR ME TO TAKE!



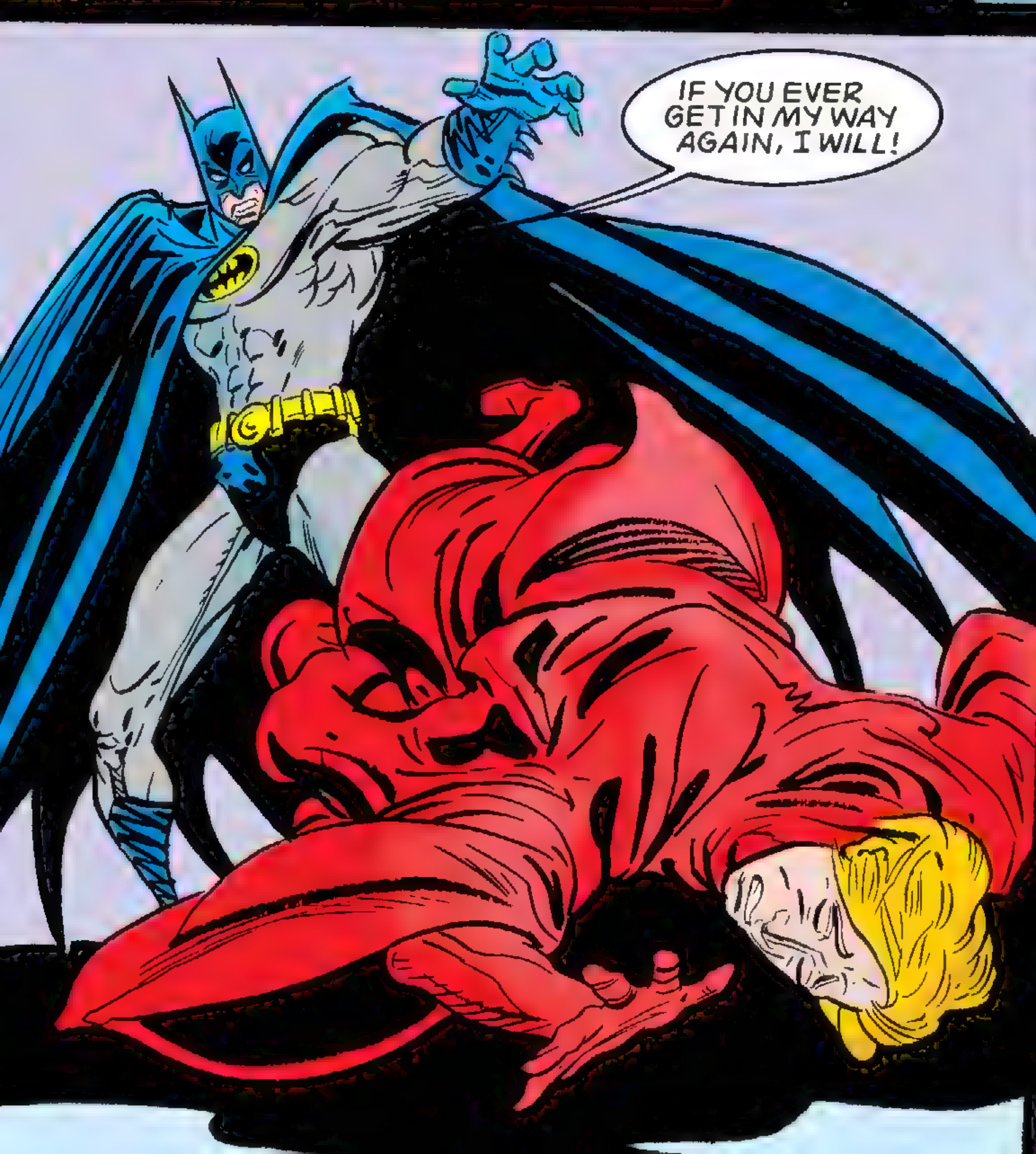
YOU HELP ME-- THEN YOU TRY TO KILL ME. WHY?

I-I TOLD YOU-- YOU'RE DANGEROUS! YOU ATTRACT ALL THESE CROOKS AND LUNATICS!

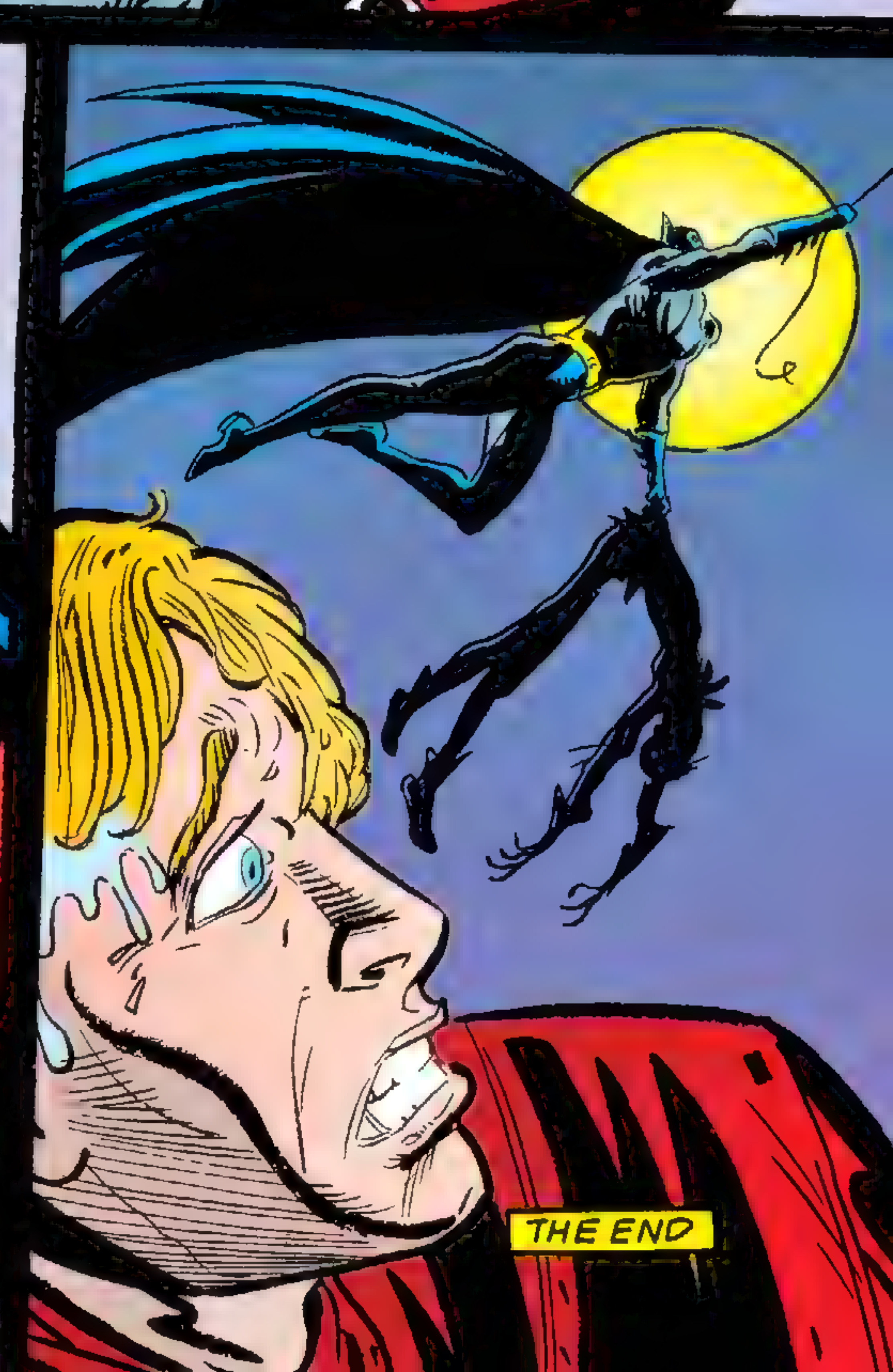
I ONLY WANTED TO HELP GOTHAM....!



I COULD CRUSH YOUR HEAD LIKE AN EGG!



IF YOU EVER GET IN MY WAY AGAIN, I WILL!



THE END



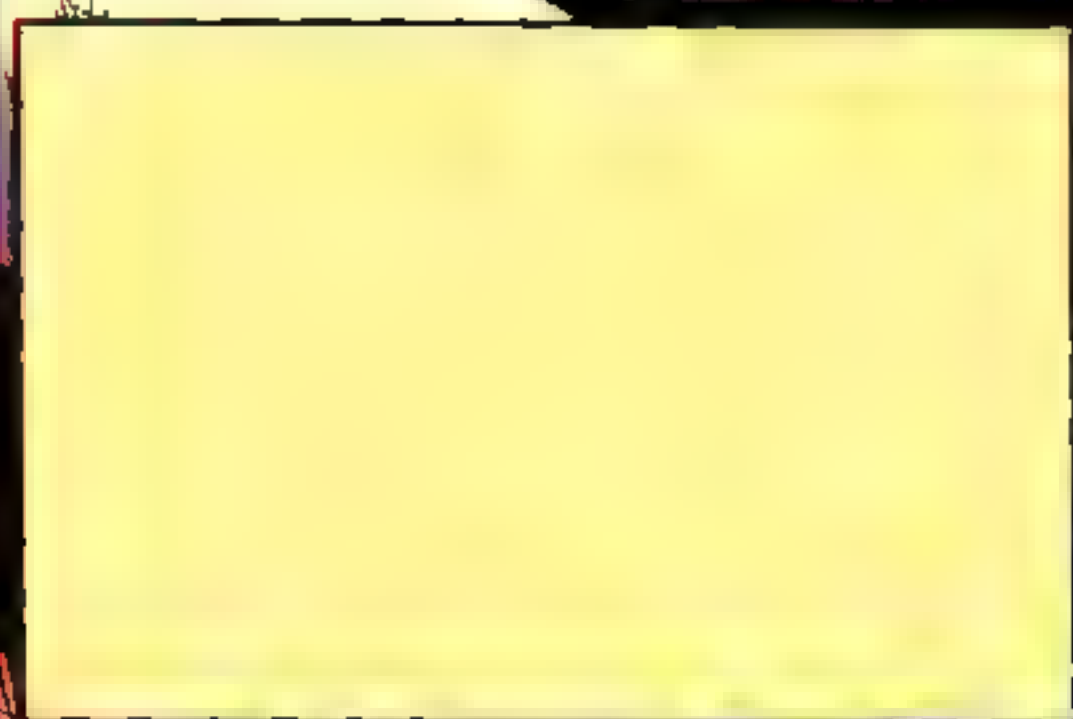
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DETECTIVE COMICS™ FEATURING BATMAN





Cover art by
KELLEY JONES

LIGHTNING CHANGES

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Writer
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NOLAN
Penciller
JOHN
COSTANZA
letterer

DICK
GIORDANO
inker
SCOTT
PETERSON
editor

BATMAN created by **BOB KANE**

EVERYTHING'S THE SAME
AND EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT.

BATMAN AND I ARE IN A TIGHT
SPOT, OUTNUMBERED AND
SURROUNDED BY HOODS WE
CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A
BREAK-IN.

BUT THE GUY IN THE
CAPE AND COWL ISN'T
BRUCE WAYNE.

IT'S JEAN PAUL VALLEY, BRUCE'S CHOICE TO STAND IN FOR HIM AS BATMAN UNTIL HE RECOVERS.

IF HE RECOVERS.

NO. CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW.

NOT WITH THESE CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS TRYING TO TAKE MY HEAD OFF.

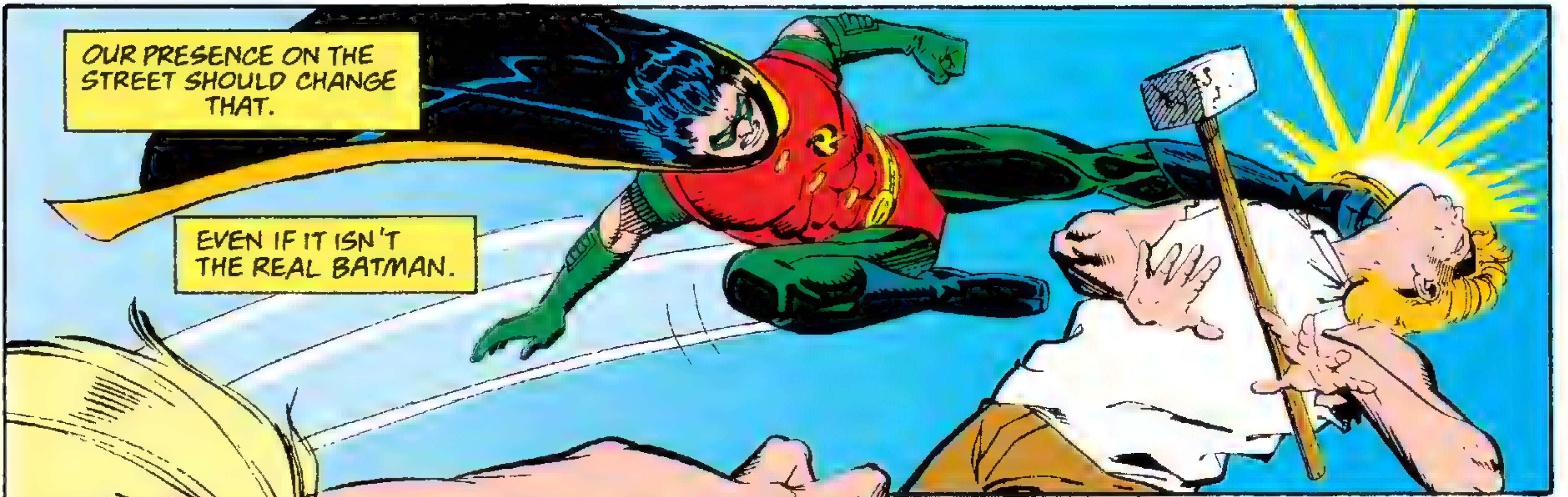
IT'S LIKE EVERY HOOD IN GOTHAM WAS SUDDENLY HANDED A LICENSE TO STEAL.

OWWWW!

OOG!

DOOP!

THE CRIMINAL CLASS HAS GONE ON OVERTIME WITH BATMAN OUT OF ACTION.



OUR PRESENCE ON THE STREET SHOULD CHANGE THAT.

EVEN IF IT ISN'T THE REAL BATMAN.



AND PAUL'S DOING A GOOD JOB FILLING IN.

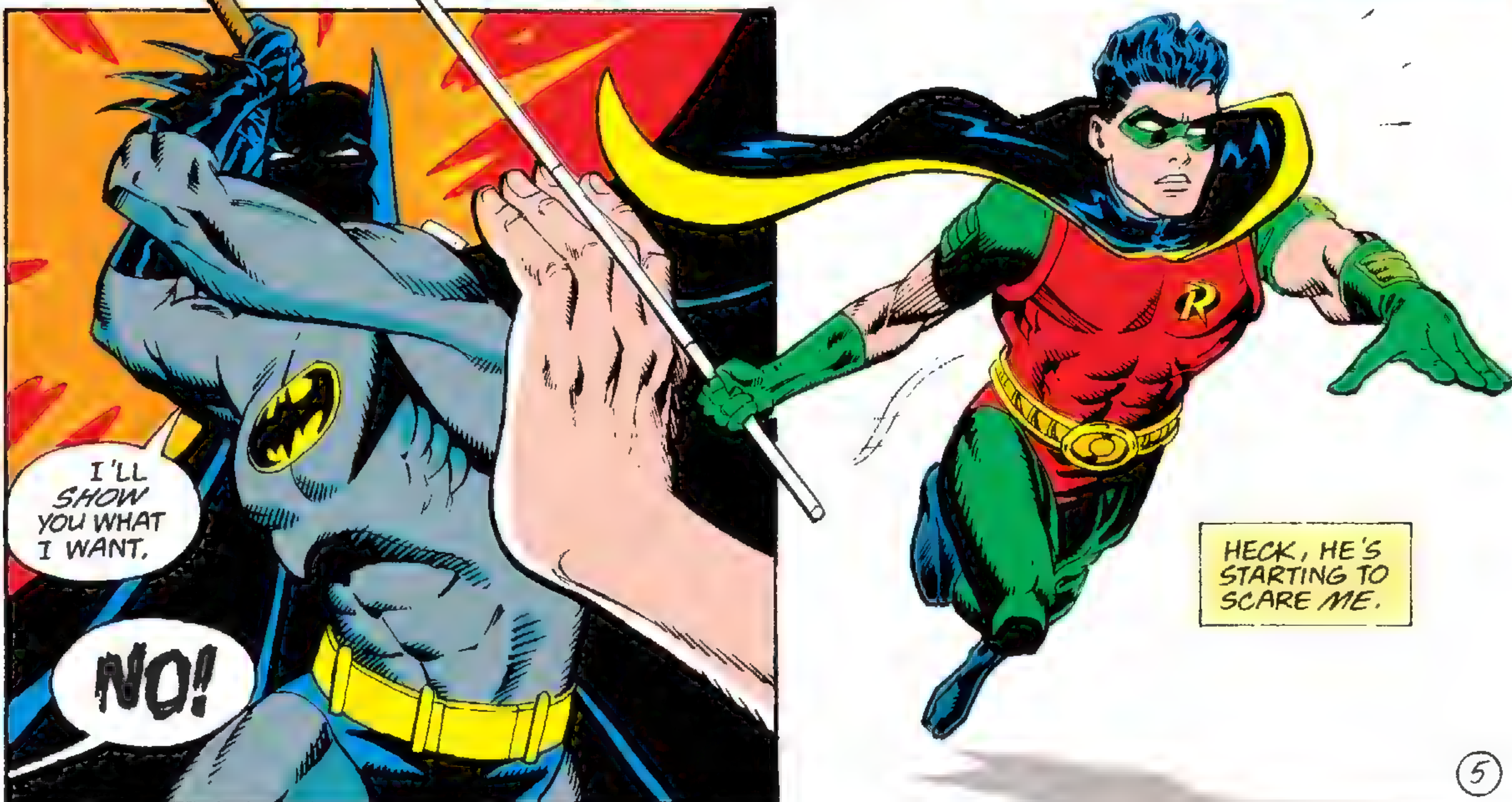
MAYBE A LITTLE TOO GOOD.

UNNH!

HE'S INTO IT, ALL RIGHT. HE'S QUICK AND TOUGH AND SCARY.

BUT SOMEHOW HE'S SCARY IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS.

SCUM!





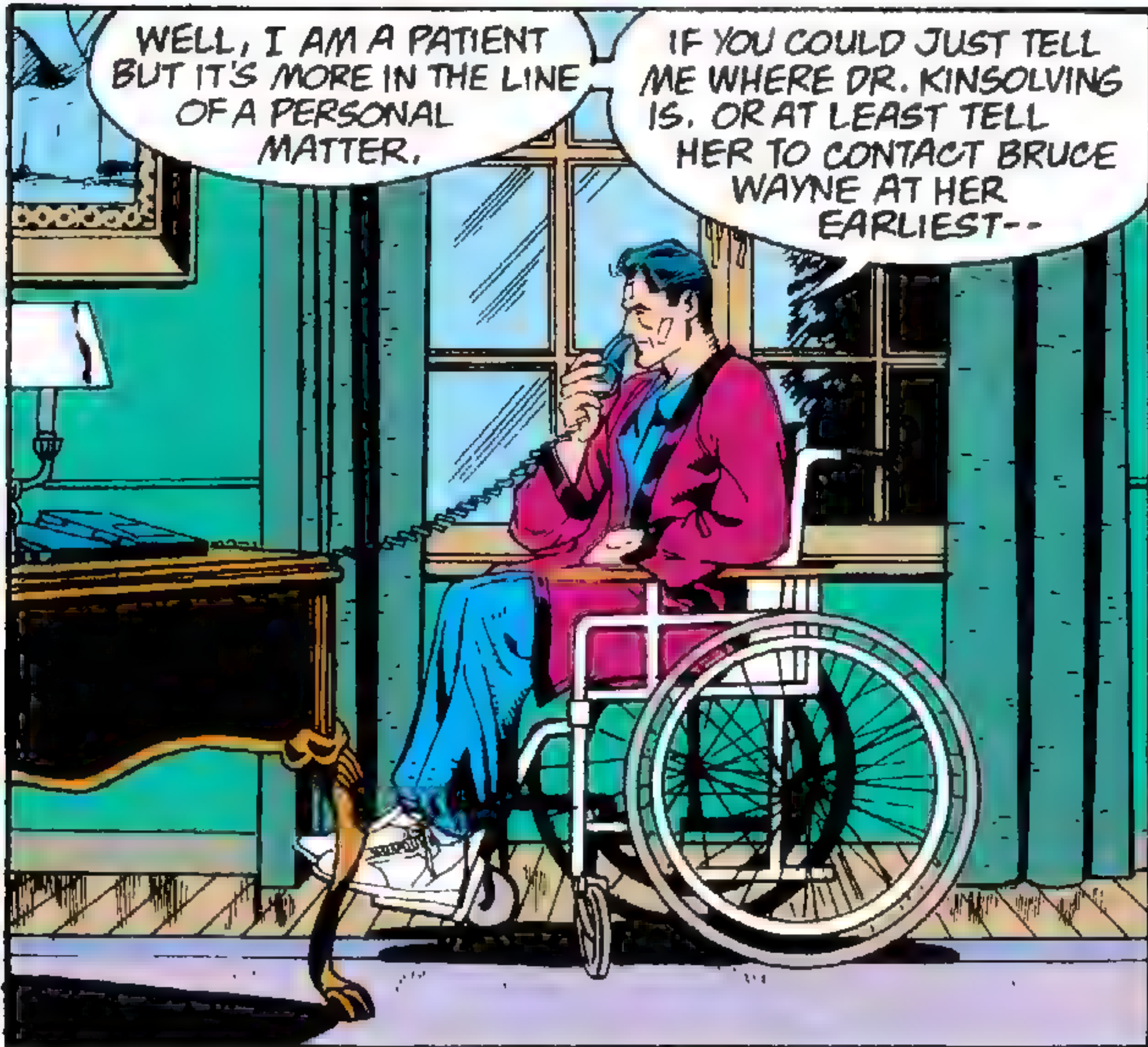
SUDDENLY THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR.





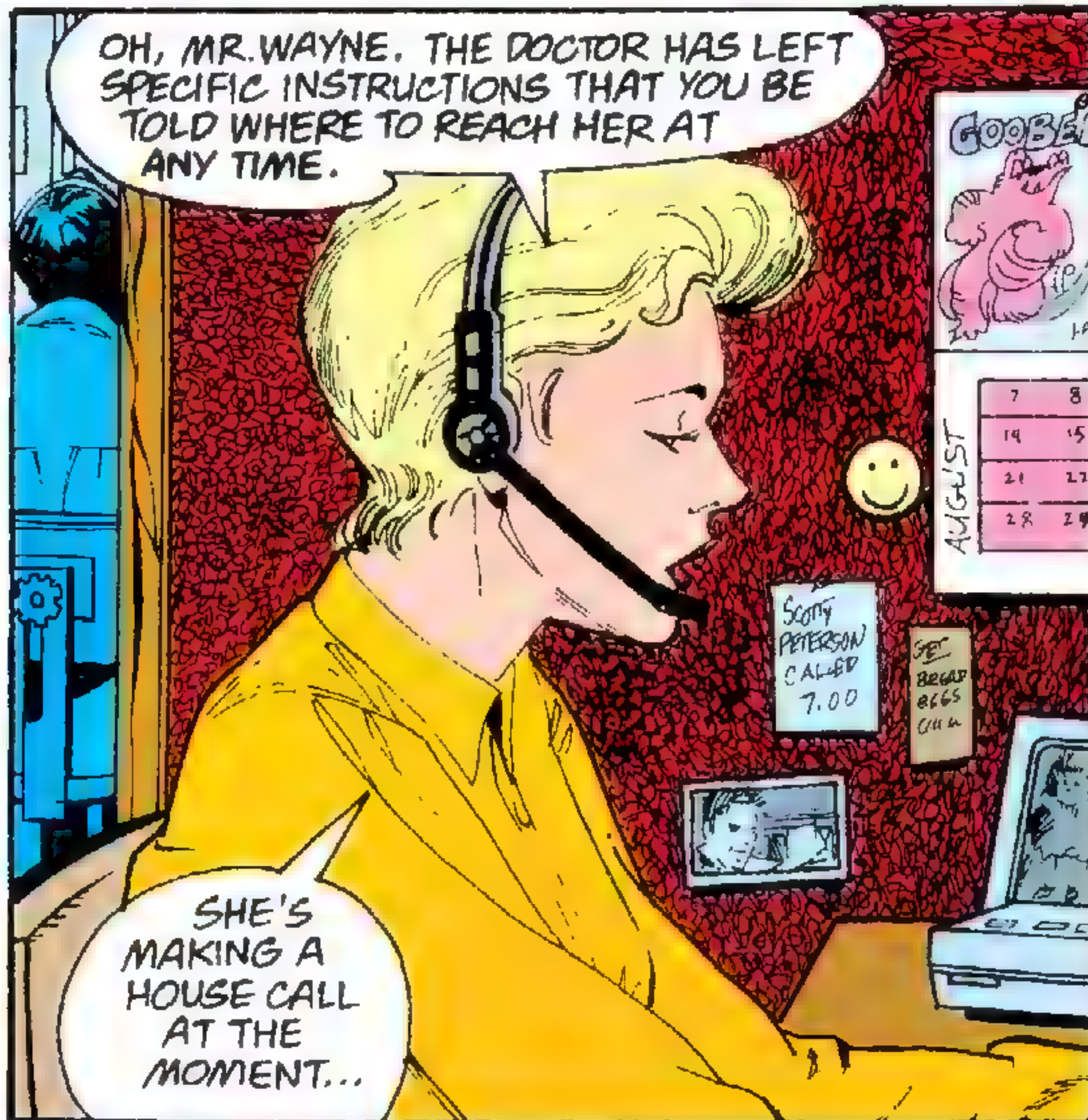
AND THE NIGHT GETS A LITTLE DARKER.

AND COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE SHE'S GONE?



WELL, I AM A PATIENT BUT IT'S MORE IN THE LINE OF A PERSONAL MATTER.

IF YOU COULD JUST TELL ME WHERE DR. KINSOLVING IS. OR AT LEAST TELL HER TO CONTACT BRUCE WAYNE AT HER EARLIEST--



OH, MR. WAYNE. THE DOCTOR HAS LEFT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS THAT YOU BE TOLD WHERE TO REACH HER AT ANY TIME.

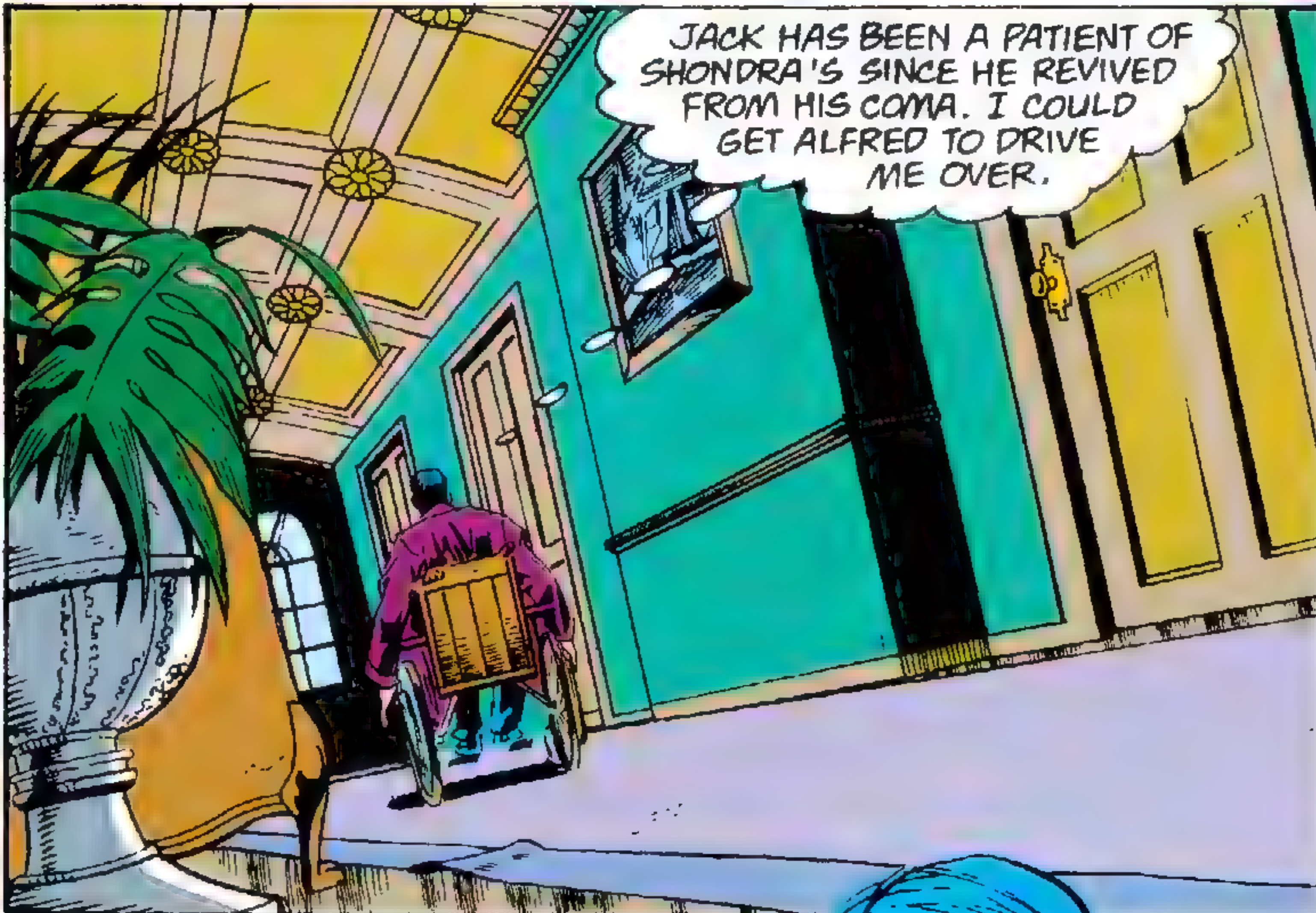
SHE'S MAKING A HOUSE CALL AT THE MOMENT...



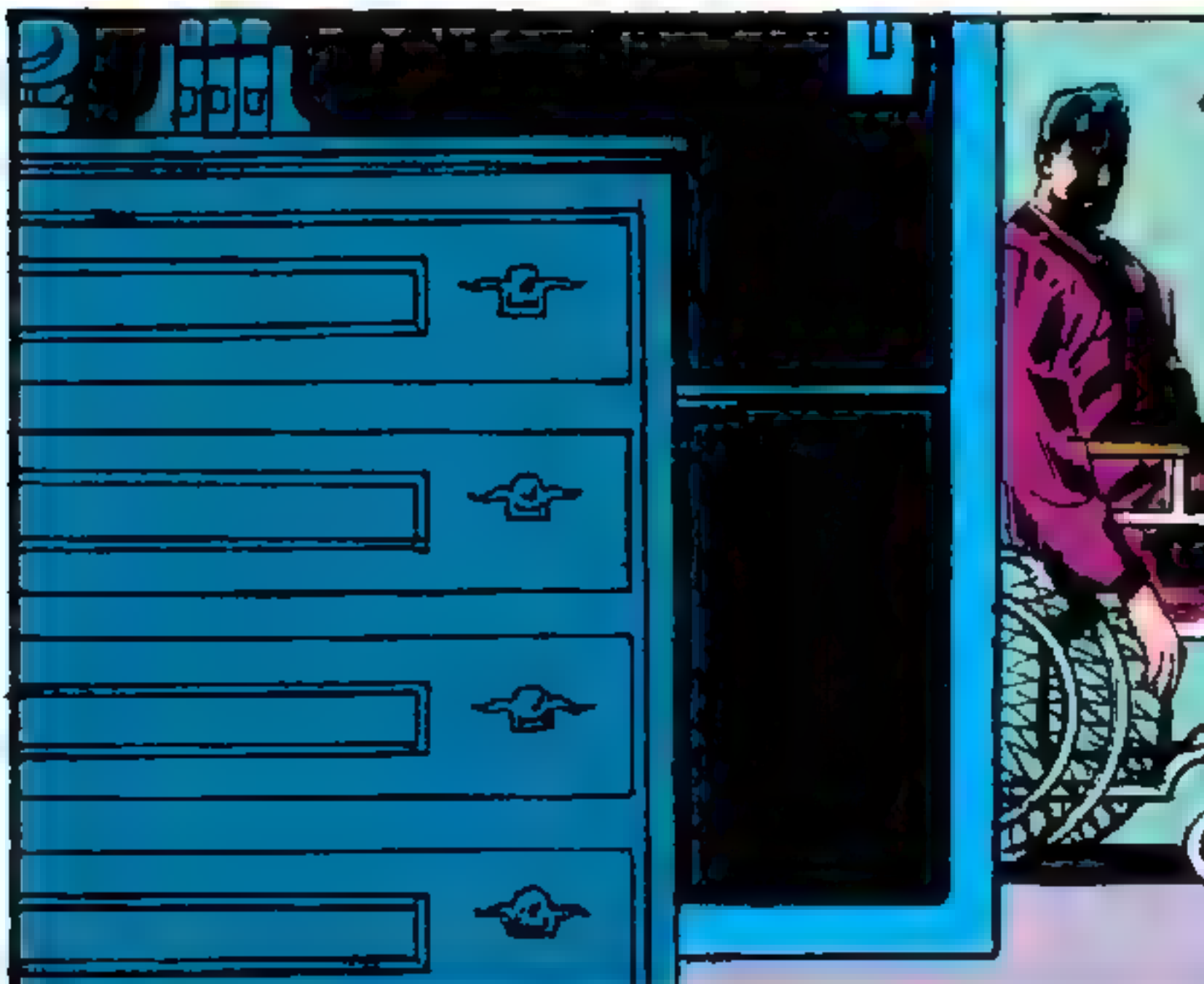
...OVER IN BRISTOL. THE PATIENT IS A MR. J. DRAKE.

JACK DRAKE, TIM'S FATHER. THAT'S NEXT DOOR,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. HAVE A GOOD EVENING.

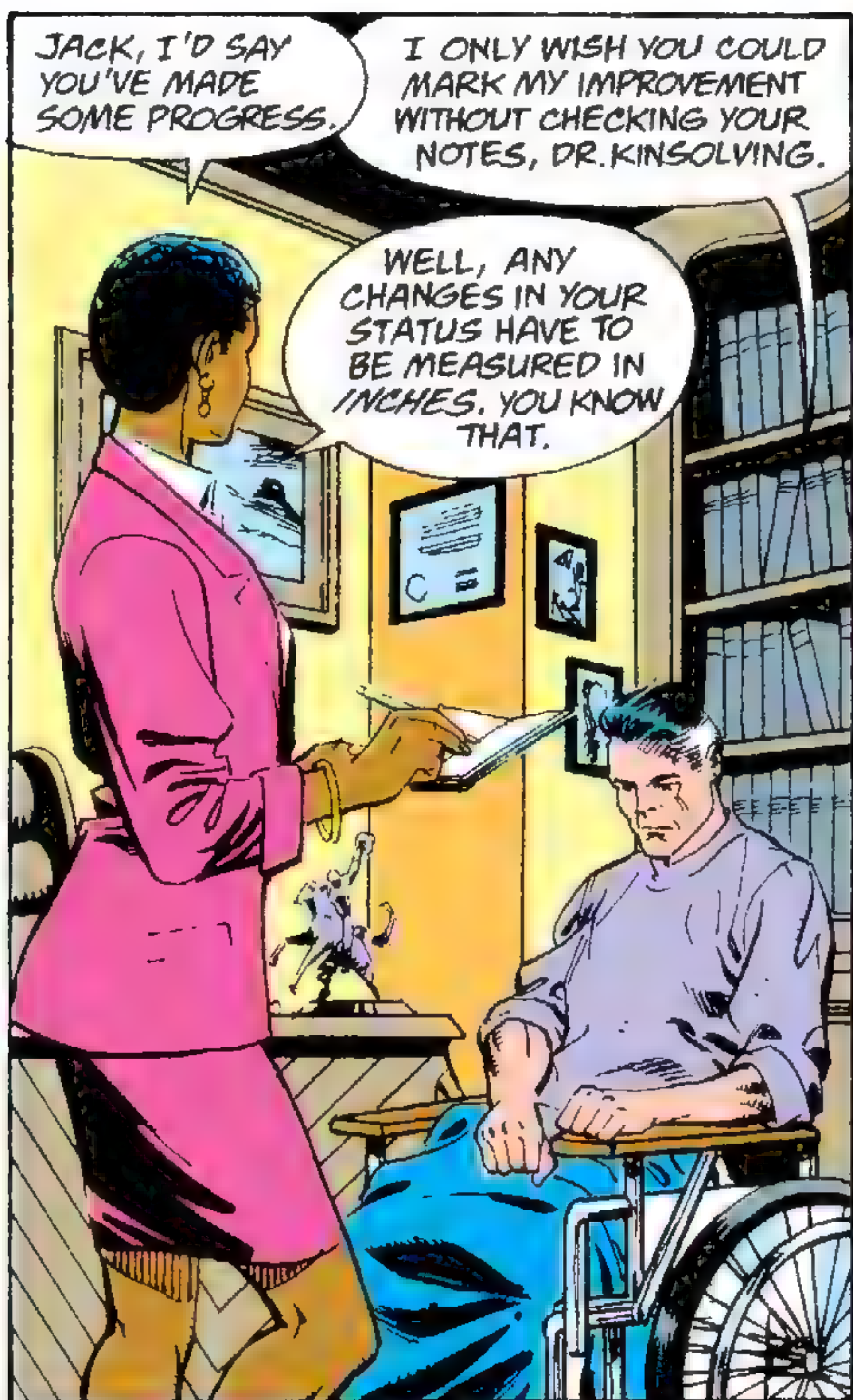


JACK HAS BEEN A PATIENT OF SHONDRA'S SINCE HE REVIVED FROM HIS COMA. I COULD GET ALFRED TO DRIVE ME OVER.



BUT THIS IS THE FIRST DECENT SLEEP HE'S HAD IN DAYS.

LET HIM BE.



JACK, I'D SAY YOU'VE MADE SOME PROGRESS.

I ONLY WISH YOU COULD MARK MY IMPROVEMENT WITHOUT CHECKING YOUR NOTES, DR. KINSOLVING.

WELL, ANY CHANGES IN YOUR STATUS HAVE TO BE MEASURED IN INCHES. YOU KNOW THAT.



MORE MOBILITY IN YOUR LEFT ARM. MORE FEELING IN YOUR LOWER EXTREMITIES.

SOME DAYS IT JUST SEEMS SO... IMPOSSIBLE.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, JACK.



CONVENTIONAL MEDICAL SCIENCE SAYS THAT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THE ADVANCES YOU'VE MADE SO FAR.

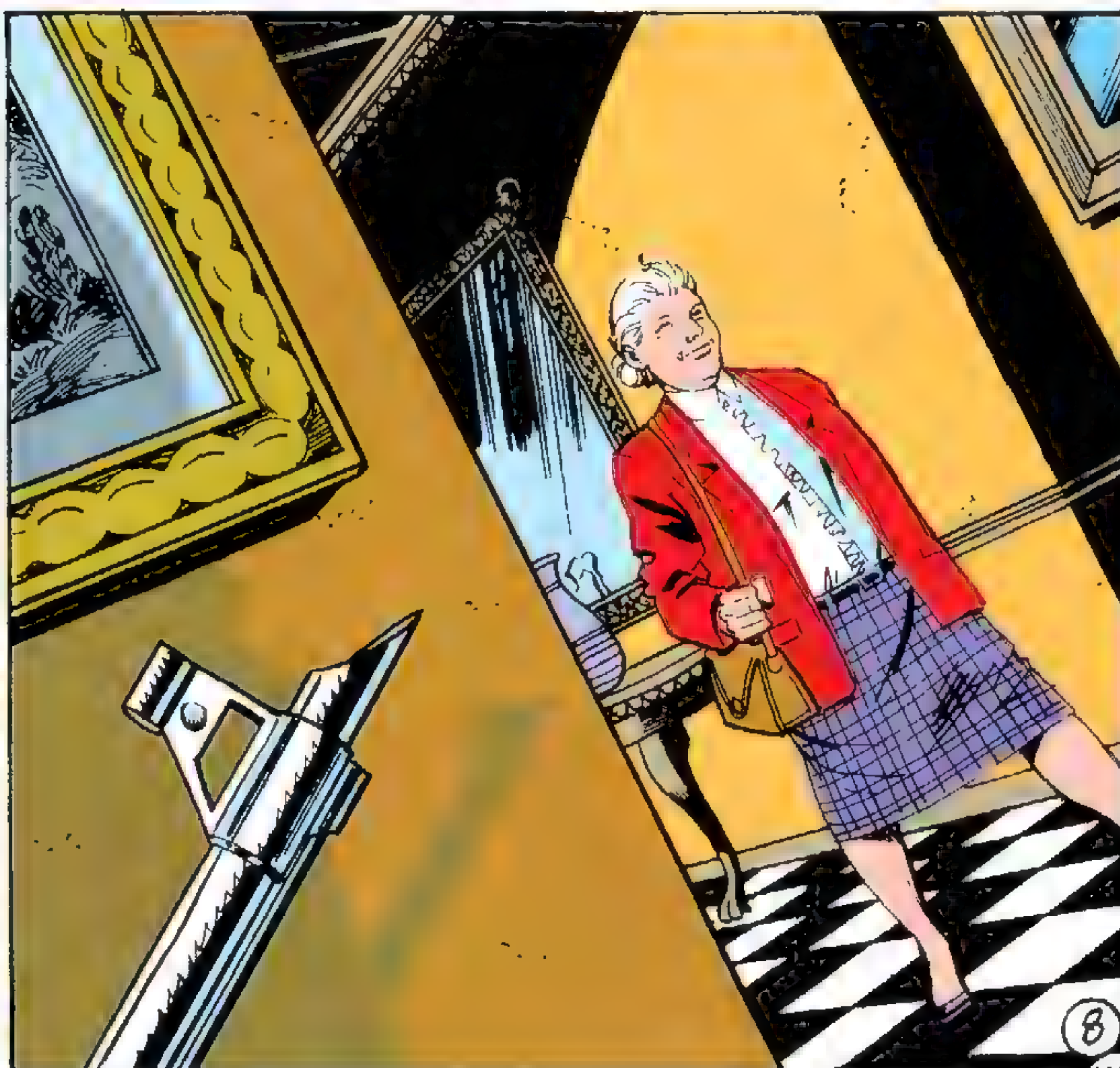
THAT'S THE BASIS OF MY ENTIRE PRACTICE; THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND THE HUMAN WILL.

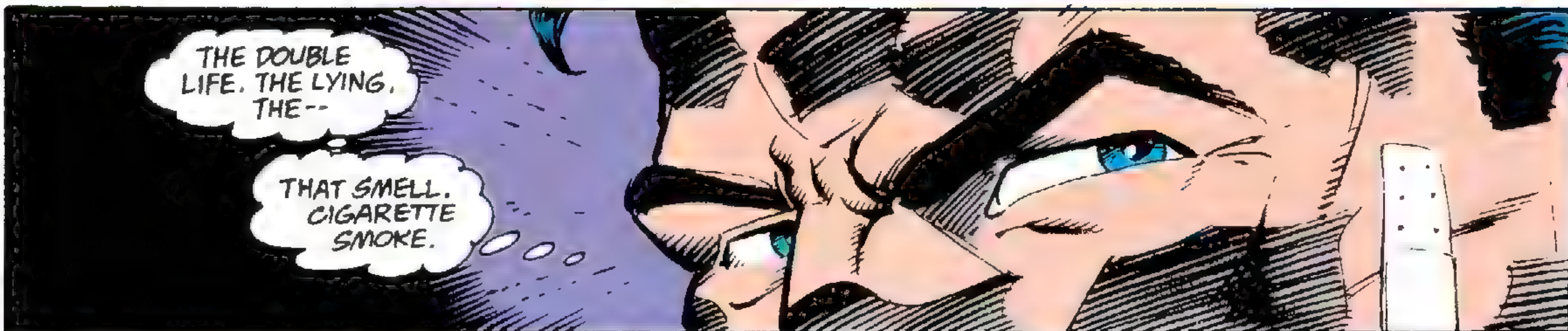
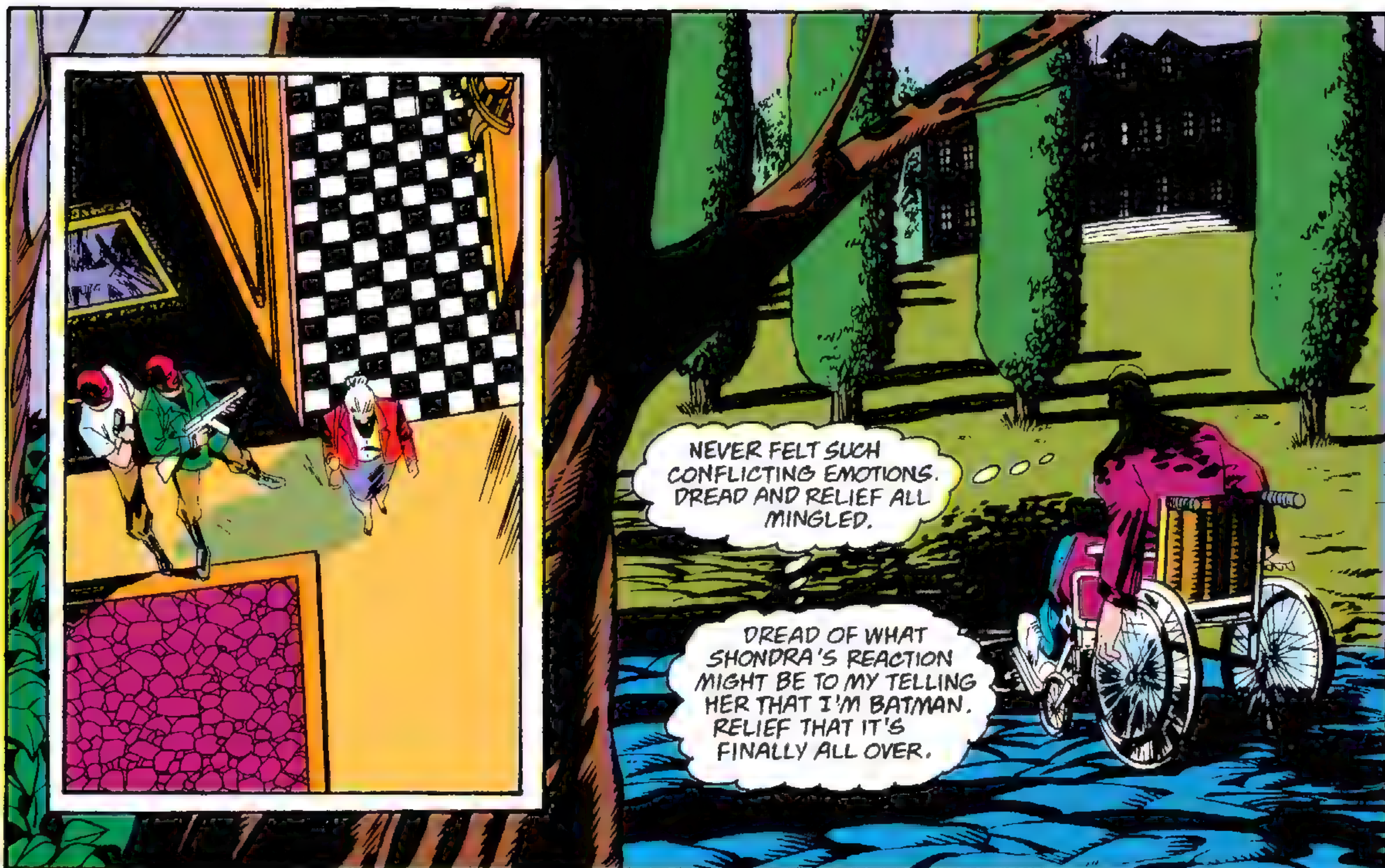
EXCUSE ME...



EXCUSE ME, MR. DRAKE. I WAS GOIN' TO THE MOVIES LIKE I SAID. ANYTHING Y'NEED BEFORE I LEAVE?

NO, MRS. MCILVAINE. ENJOY YOURSELF.







"...BANE."

DRUGS. SMUGGLING. GAMBLING. EXTORTION. CAR THEFT. BANK BURGLARY.

FROM THE HIGHEST ROLLER TO THE LOWEST STREET PUNK. OUT OF EVERY DOLLAR TAKEN IN WE GET FIFTY CENTS.

FROM CREST POINT TO SOMERSET. IT IS ALL MINE. MY INFLUENCE AND POWER ARE FELT IN EVERY CORNER OF GOTHAM.

THE UNIONS, BANE. WE STILL DON'T HAVE A GRIP ON THEM.

CONSTRUCTION, TRUCKING AND TRADE UNIONS ARE THE MOST LUCRATIVE RACKETS. THE MEN WHO CONTROL THEM HOLD ON TO THEM DEARLY.

IT WILL TAKE A LOT OF MUSCLE TO TAKE THEM AND MORE TO HOLD THEM.

WE HAVE ALREADY DRIVEN A WEDGE INTO THEIR ORGANIZATION.

THEY WILL DRIVE IT DEEPER, MY FRIENDS. YOU WILL SEE.



I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL USELESS AROUND HERE.

IT'S POINTLESS TO KEEP TAKING ON STREET-LEVEL PUNKS.

WHY NOT? WE BUST UP ONE AND HE TELLS FIVE OF HIS BUDDIES. AND THEY TELL FIVE AND SO ON.

EVEN AT THAT RATE OUR PRESENCE IS SLOW TO BE FELT.

AND IT DOES LITTLE TO STEM THE CHAOS.

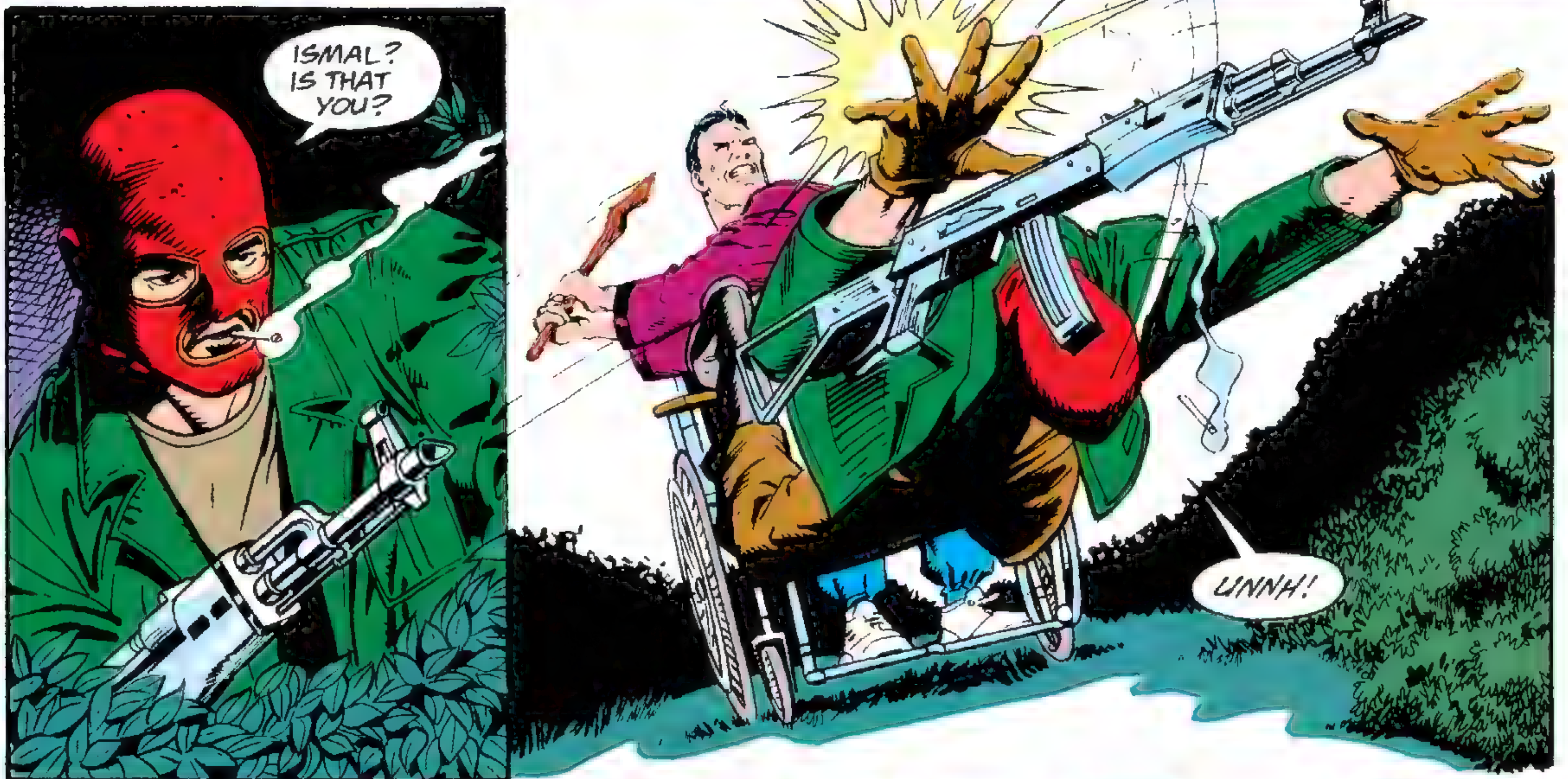
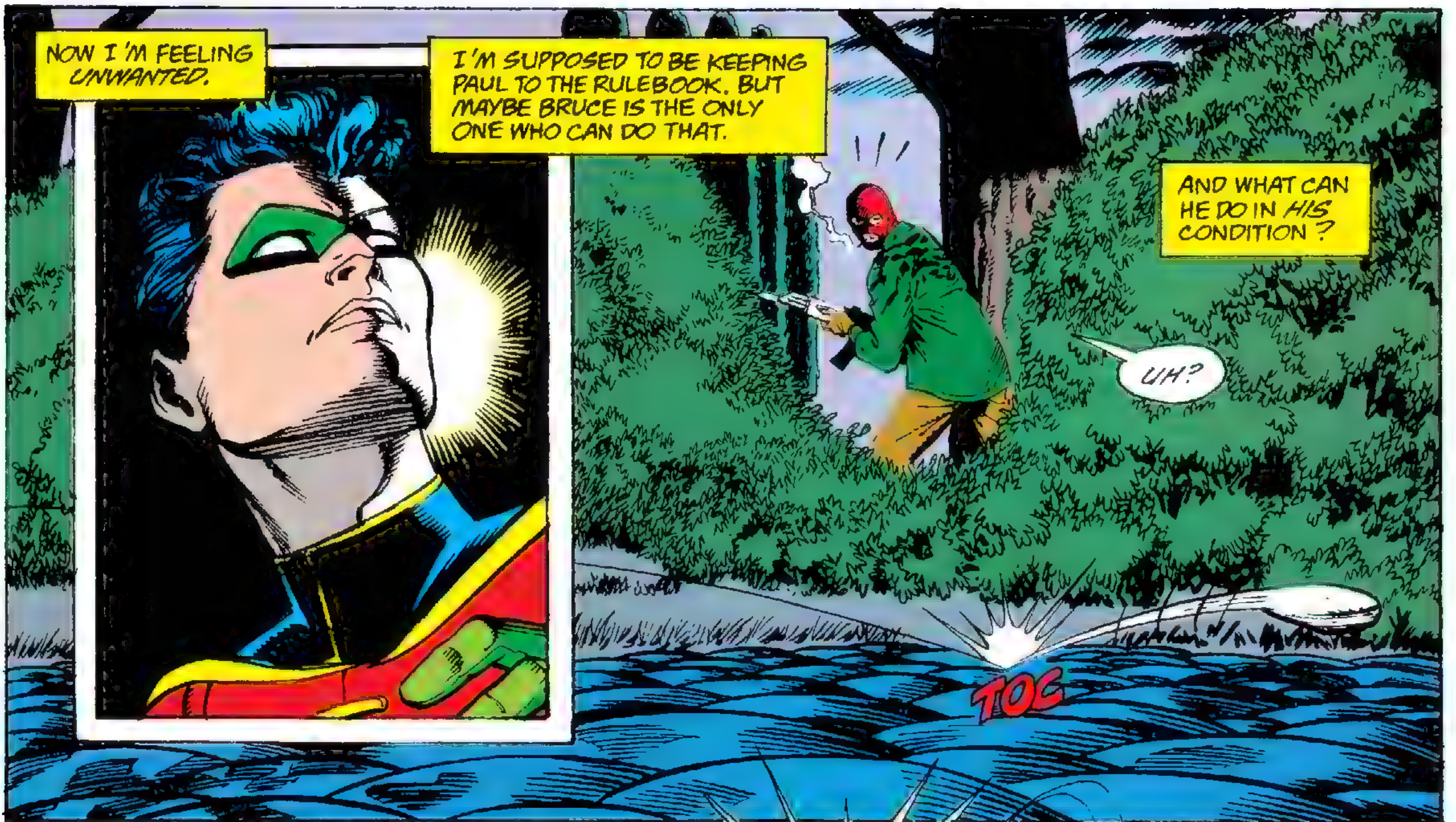
SO YOU'RE SUGGESTING...?

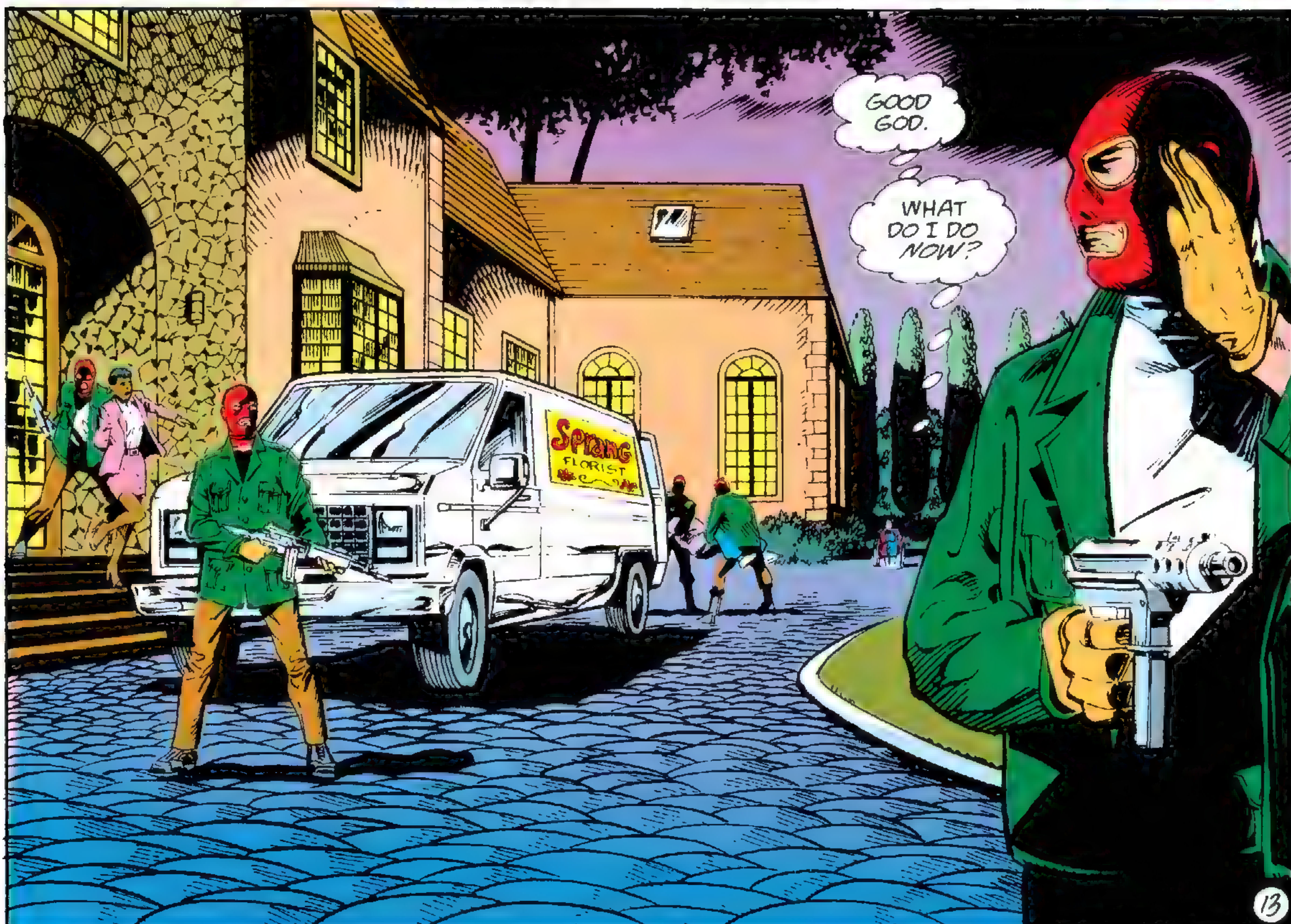
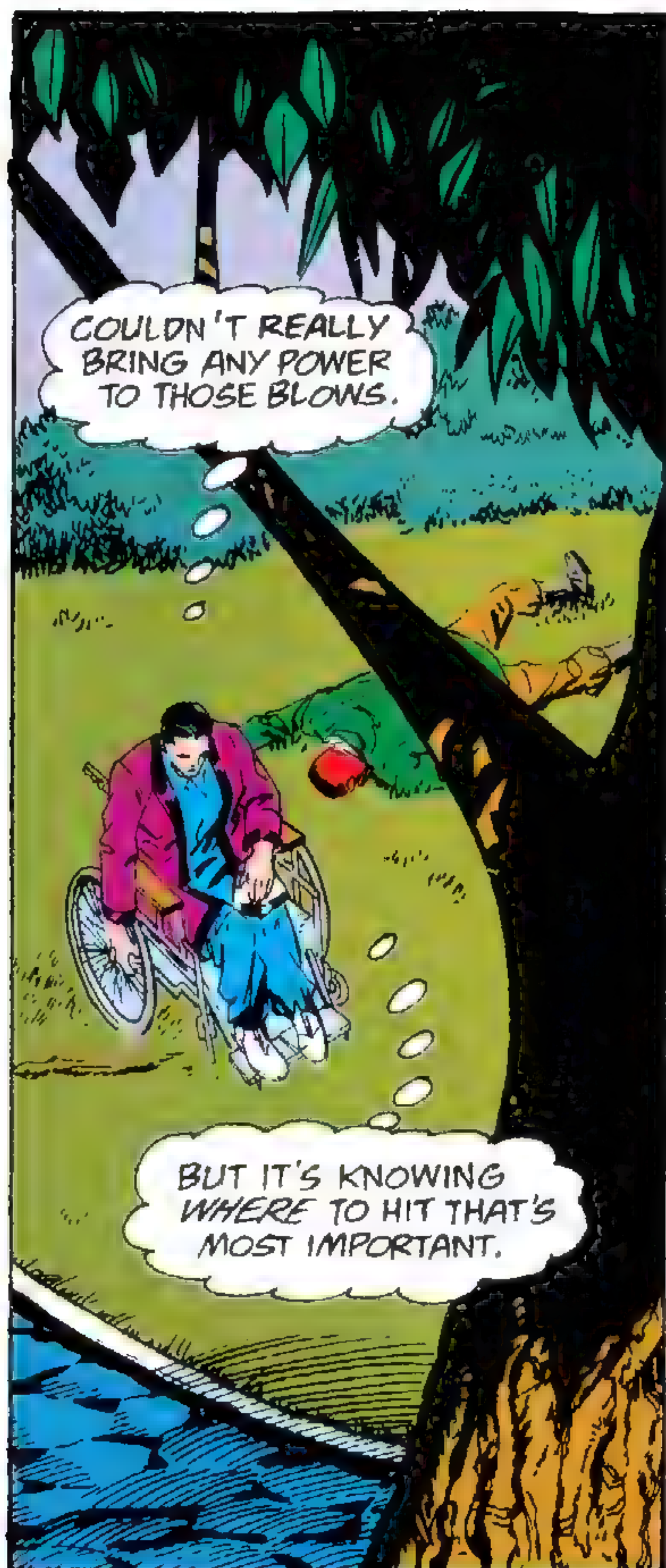
START AT THE TOP AND WORK DOWN.

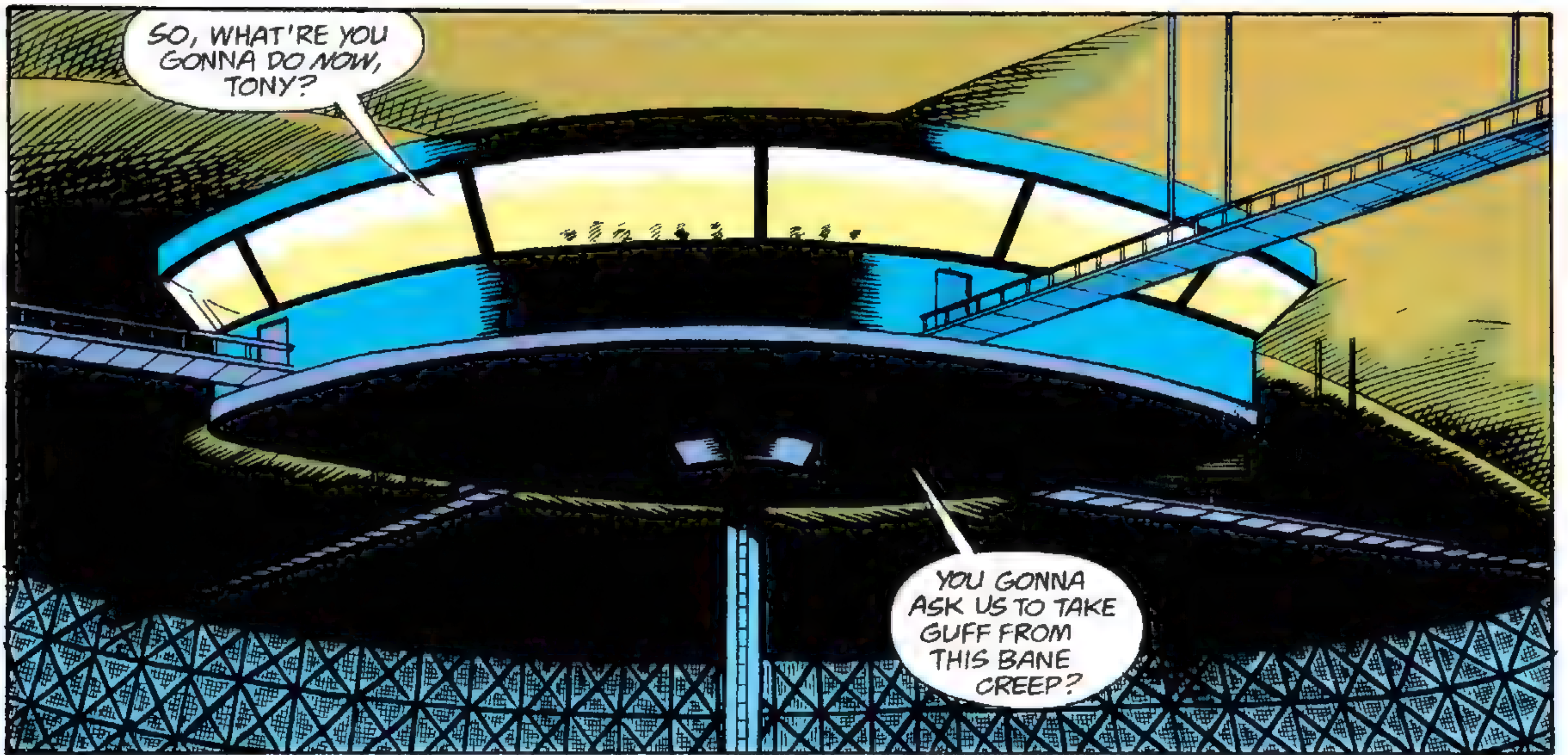
I HAVE MY OWN INFORMANTS AND THEY TELL ME THAT THE SKYROOM ATOP GOTHAM-DOME IS A FAVORITE HAUNT OF THE CITY'S PRIME MOBSTERS.

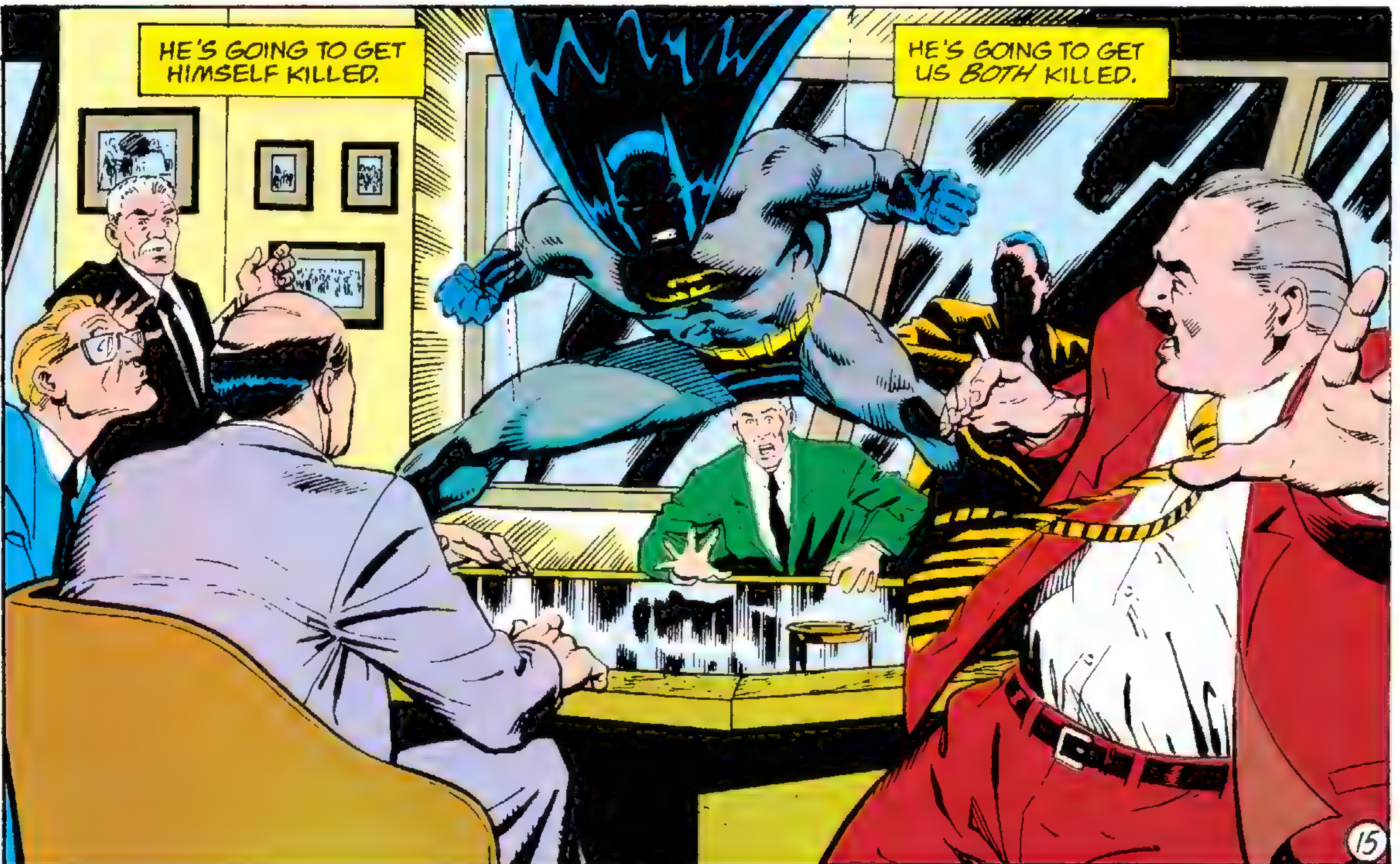
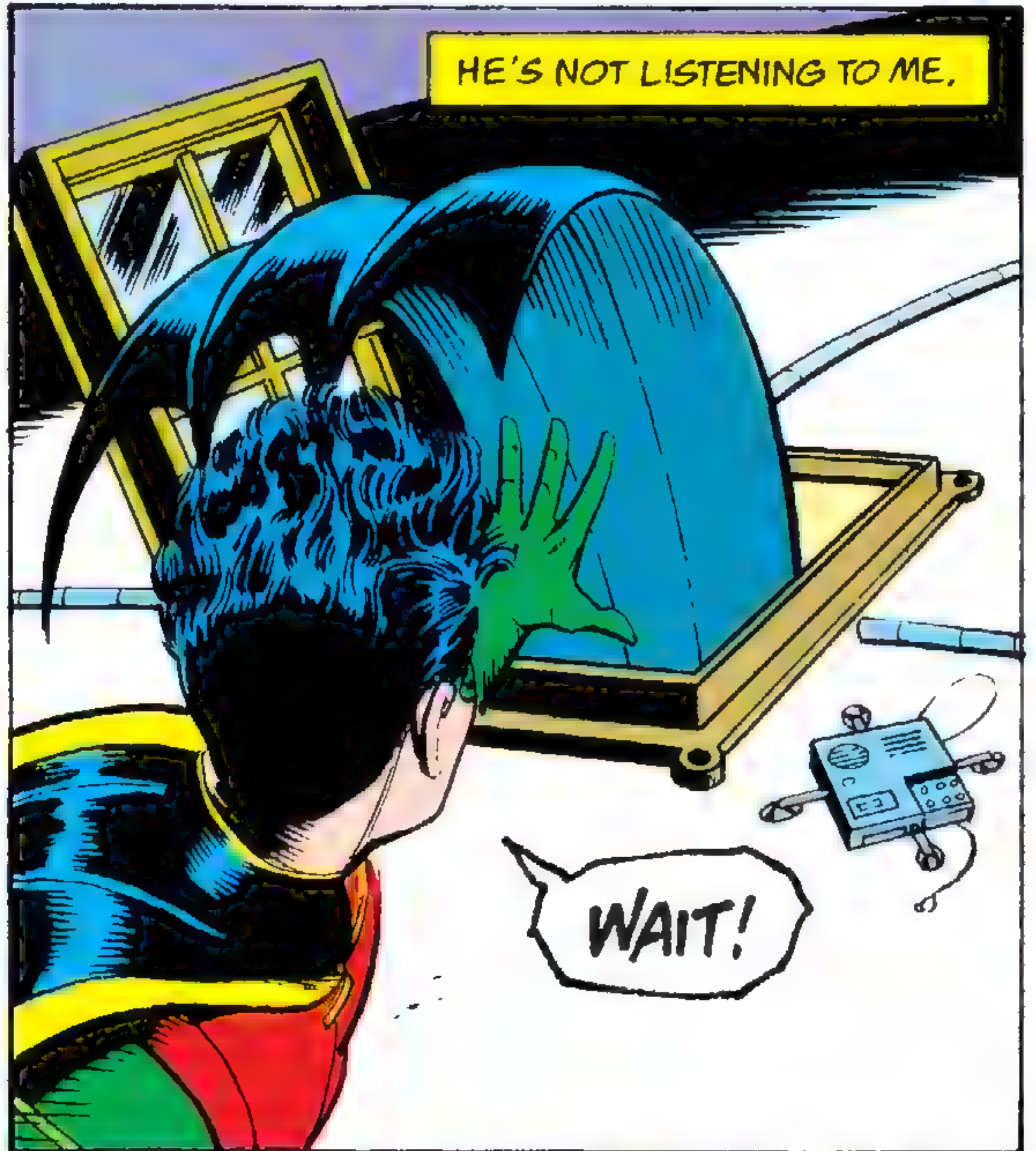
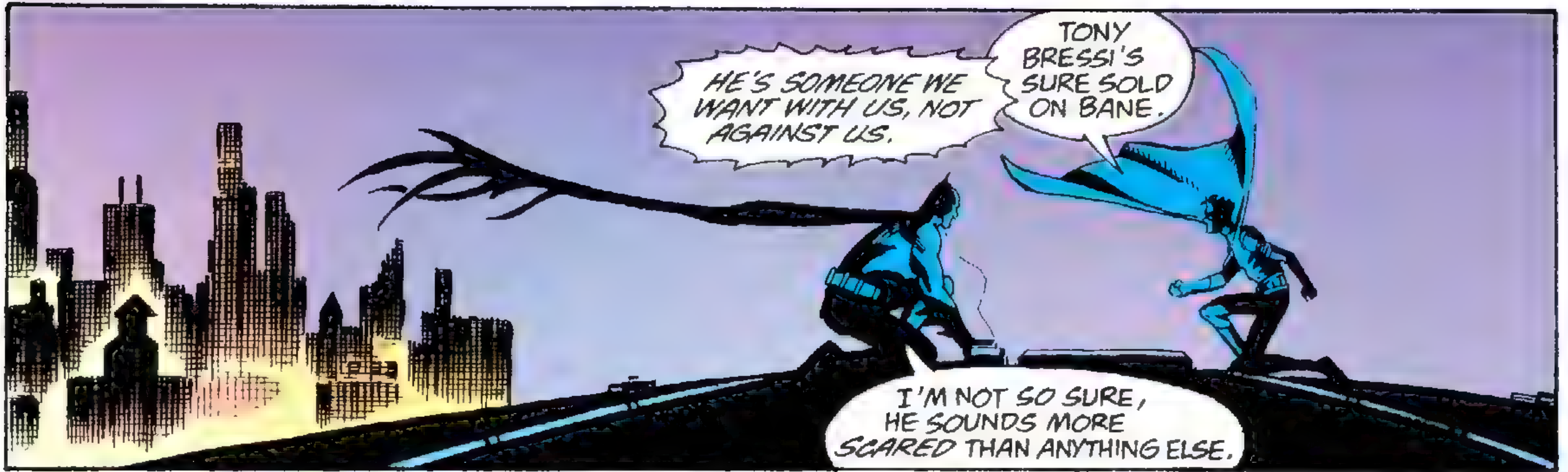
BANE IS THE PRIME MOVER IN GOTHAM THESE DAYS AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM.

YOU DO AS YOU WANT. I'M GOING TO THE TOP OF THE DOME.









THIS SITUATION IS GOING TO BE HARD TO CONTROL.

SHONDRA!

WE DO NOT NEED WITNESSES! GET RID OF HIM!

NO!

DON'T HURT HIM! YOU DON'T WANT HIM, YOU WANT US!

YOU CAN'T TAKE THEM! I WON'T LET YOU!

AND WHAT WILL YOU DO TO ME, EH?

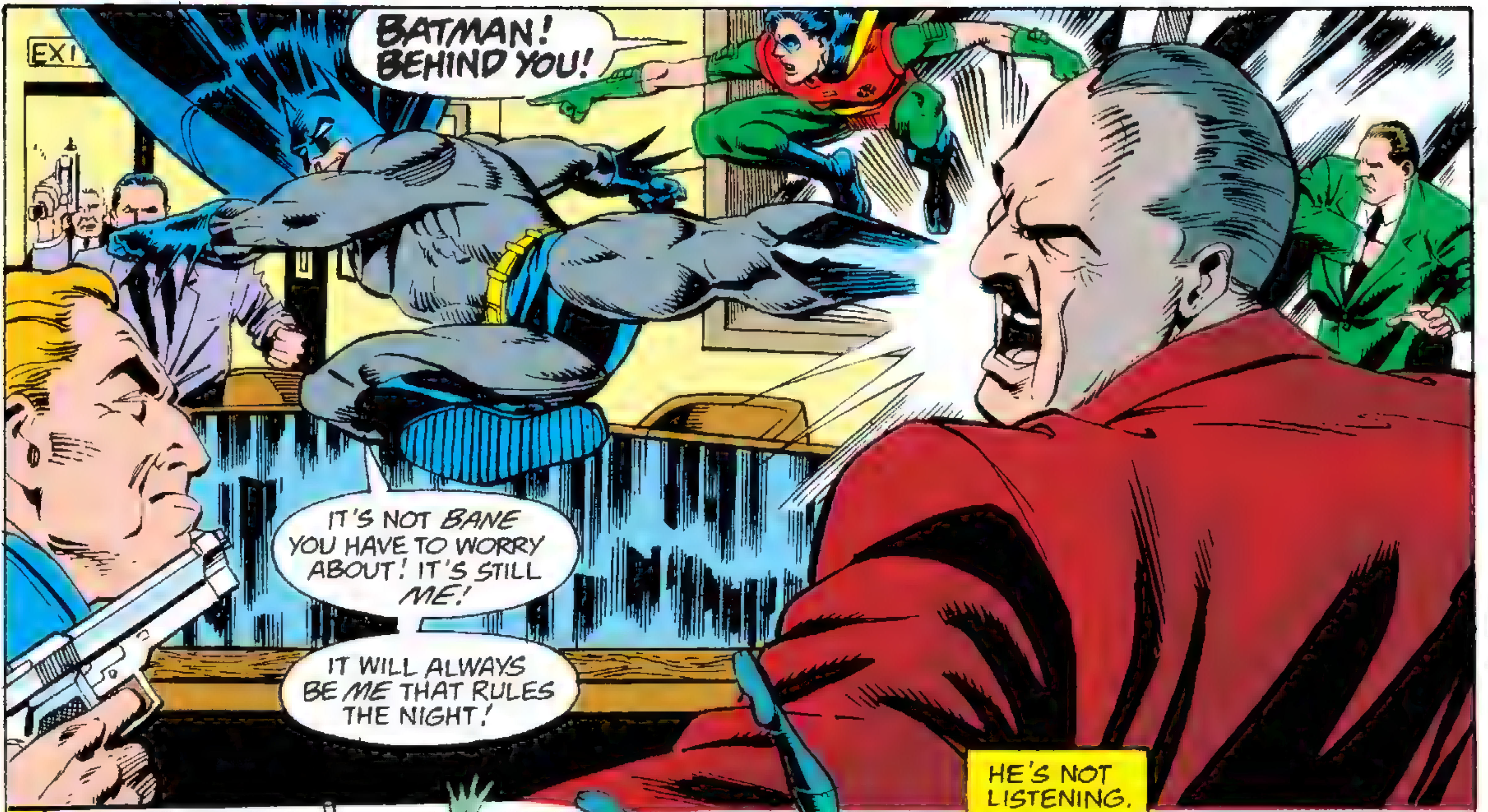
OUT OF THE WAY, TAZ. I'LL KILL HIM!

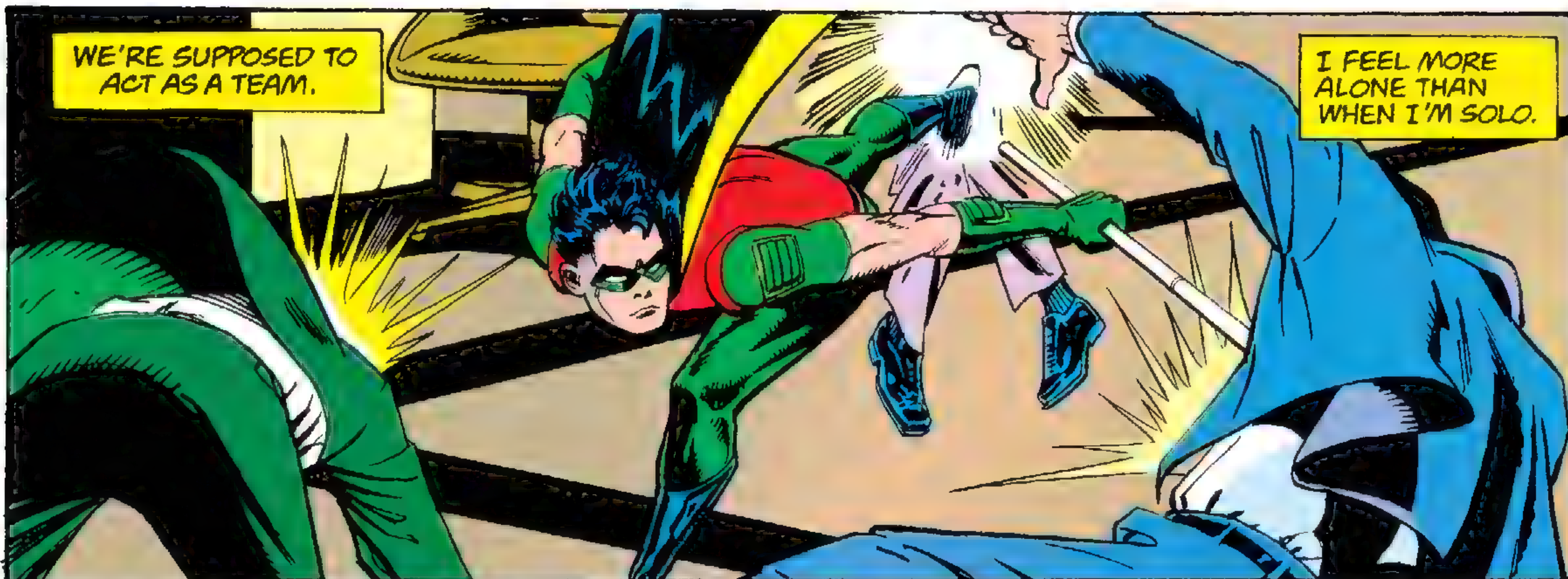
YOU GOING TO ROLL OVER MY FOOT WITH YOUR CHAIR, EH?

HEY!

LET ME GET A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM!

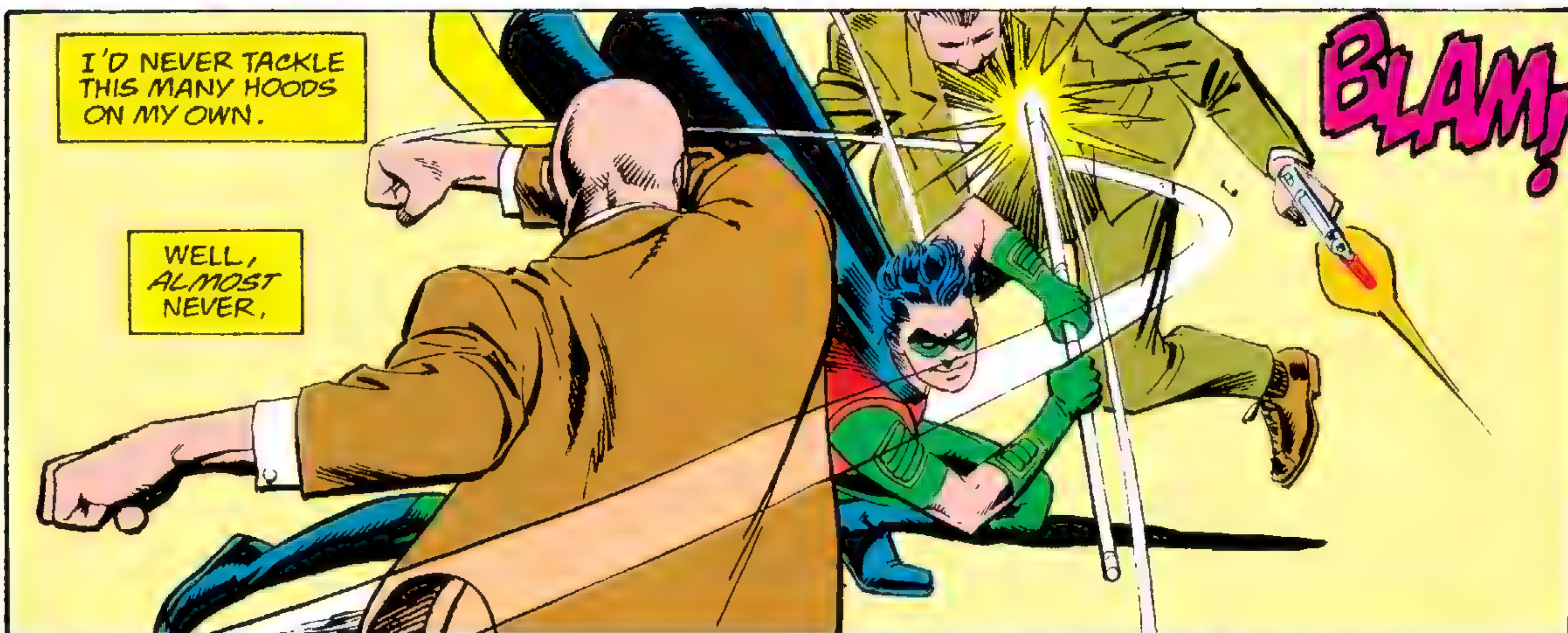
UNH!





WE'RE SUPPOSED TO ACT AS A TEAM.

I FEEL MORE ALONE THAN WHEN I'M SOLO.



I'D NEVER TACKLE THIS MANY HOODS ON MY OWN.

WELL, ALMOST NEVER.

BLAM!



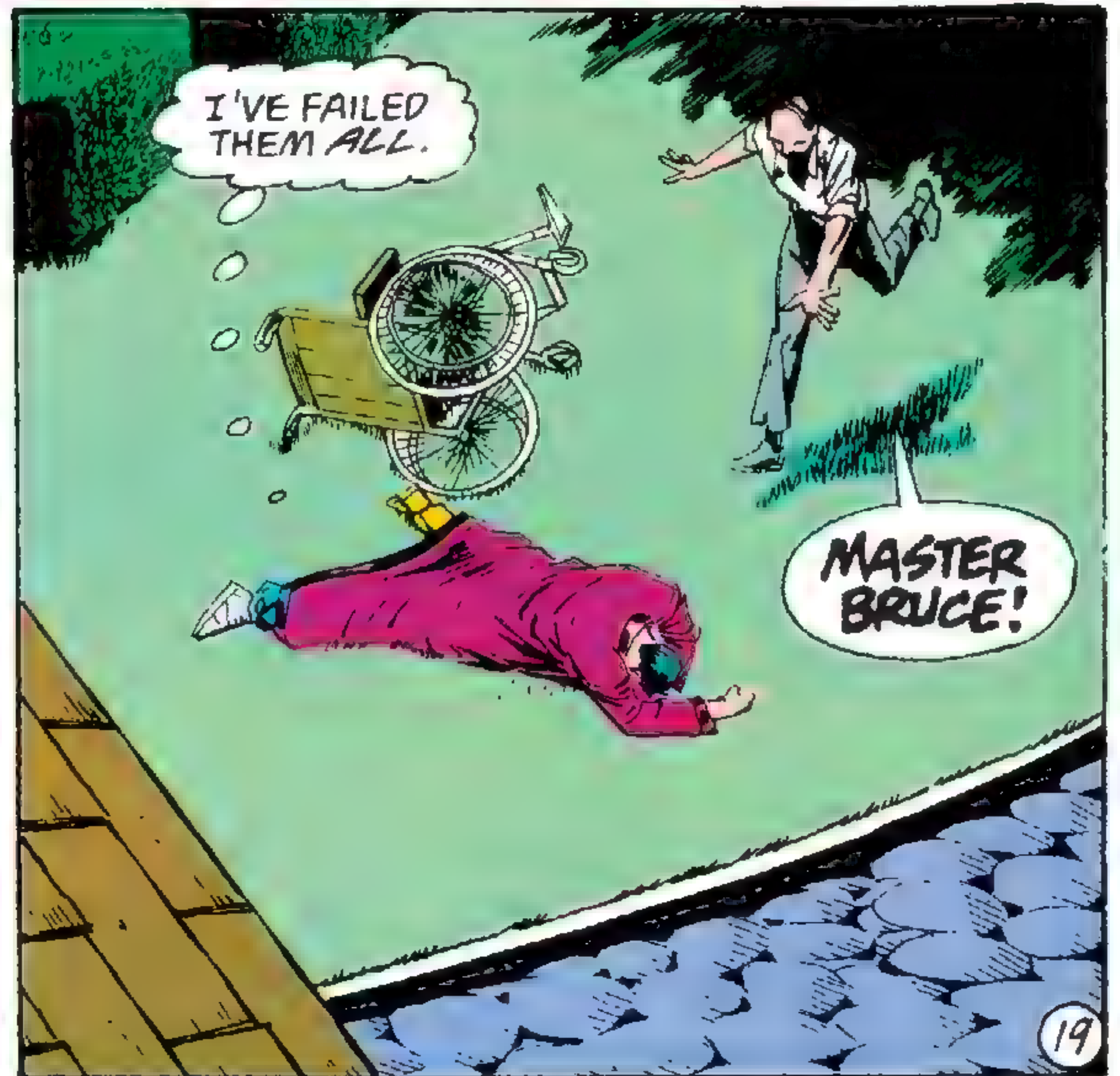
ROBIN! I'M GOING AFTER TOUGH TONY! CAN YOU HANDLE THINGS HERE?

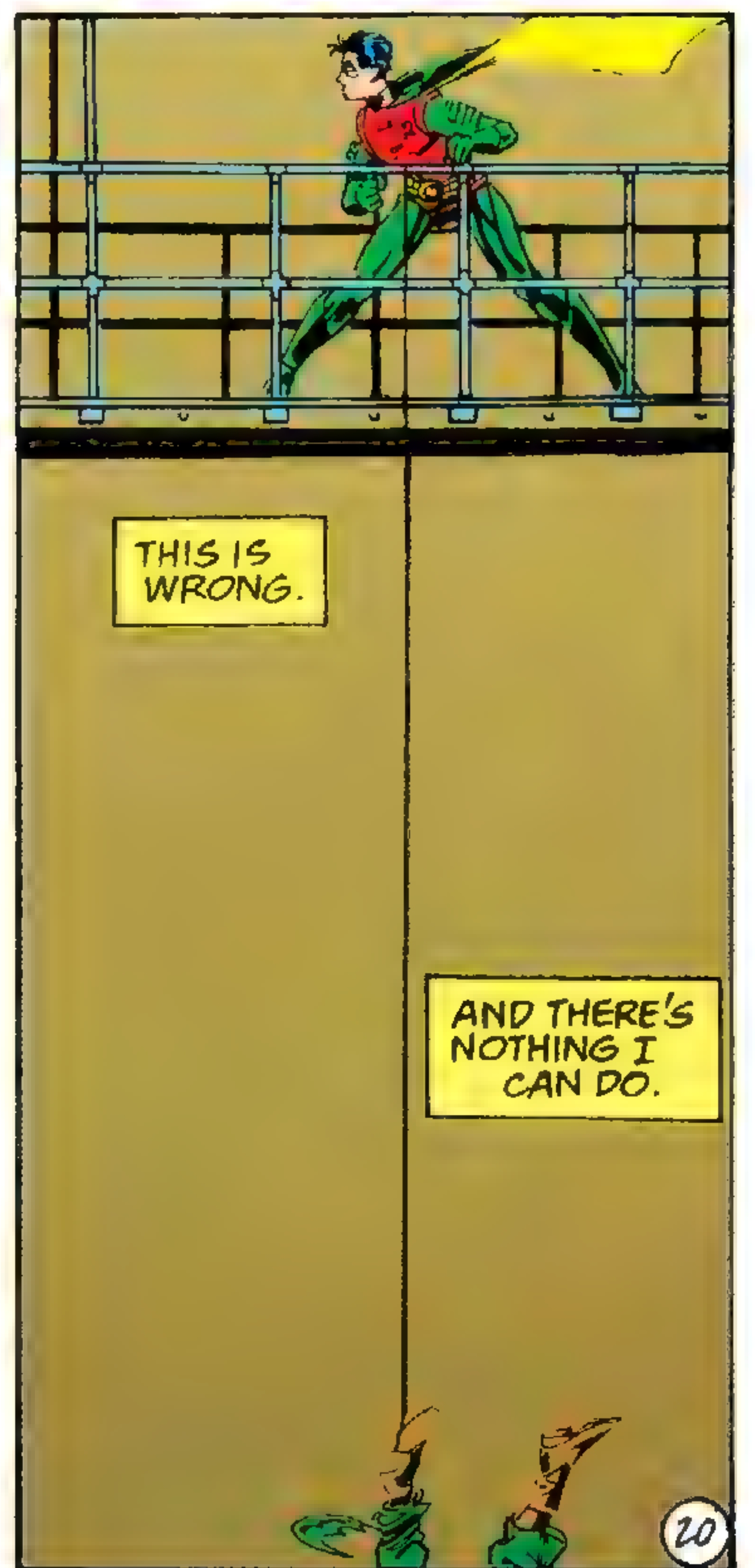
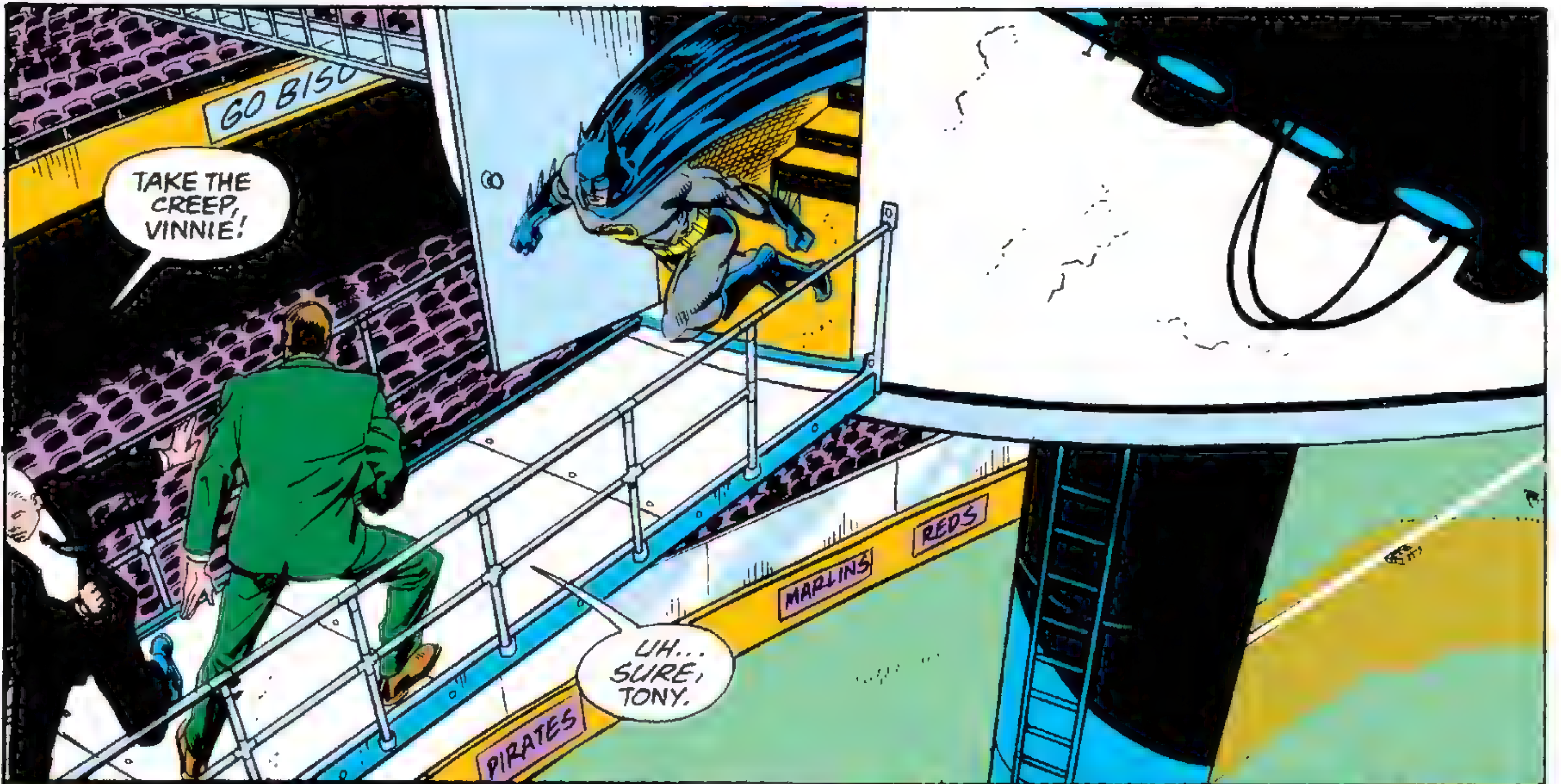
WELL, ACTUALLY...

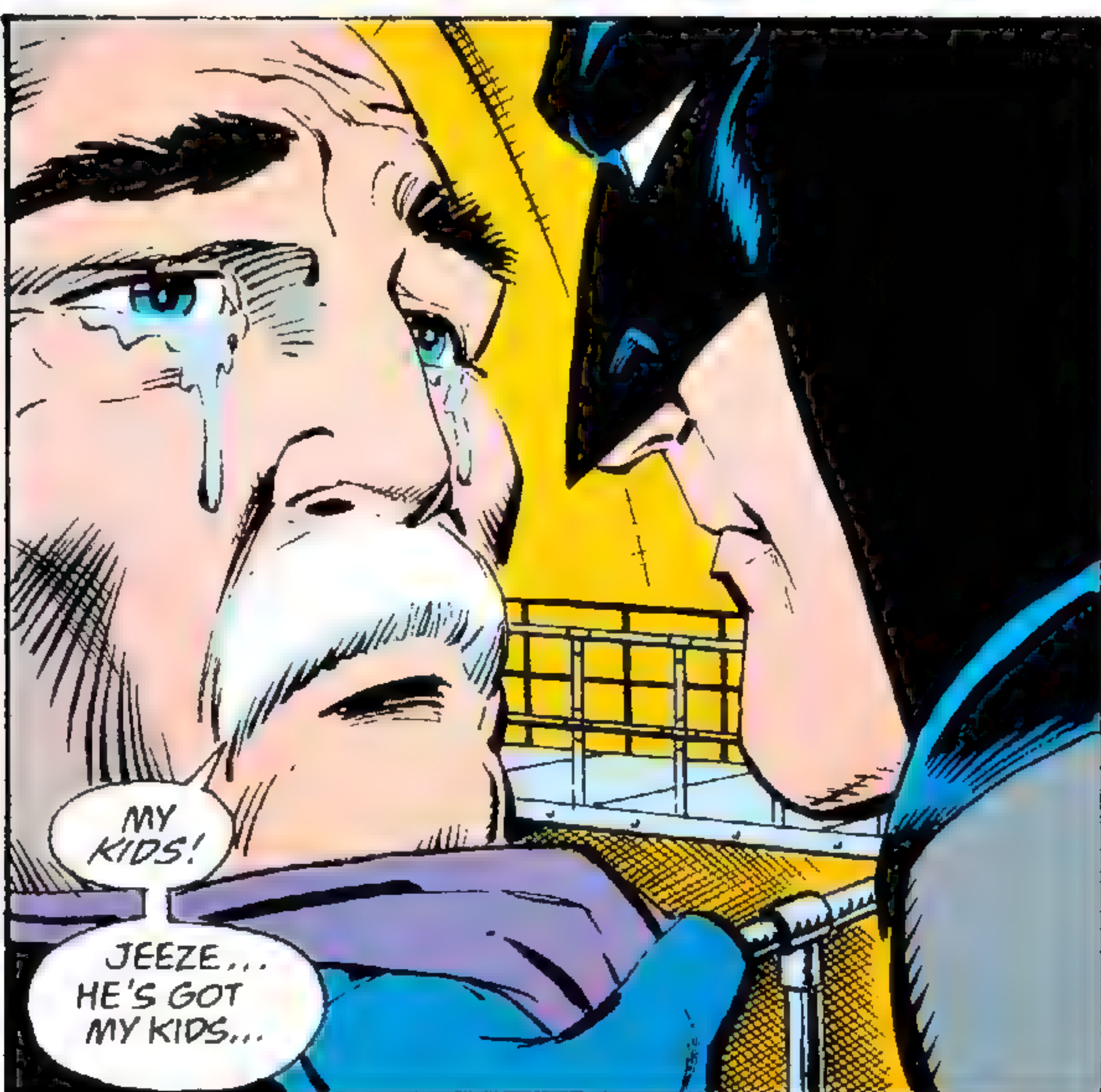
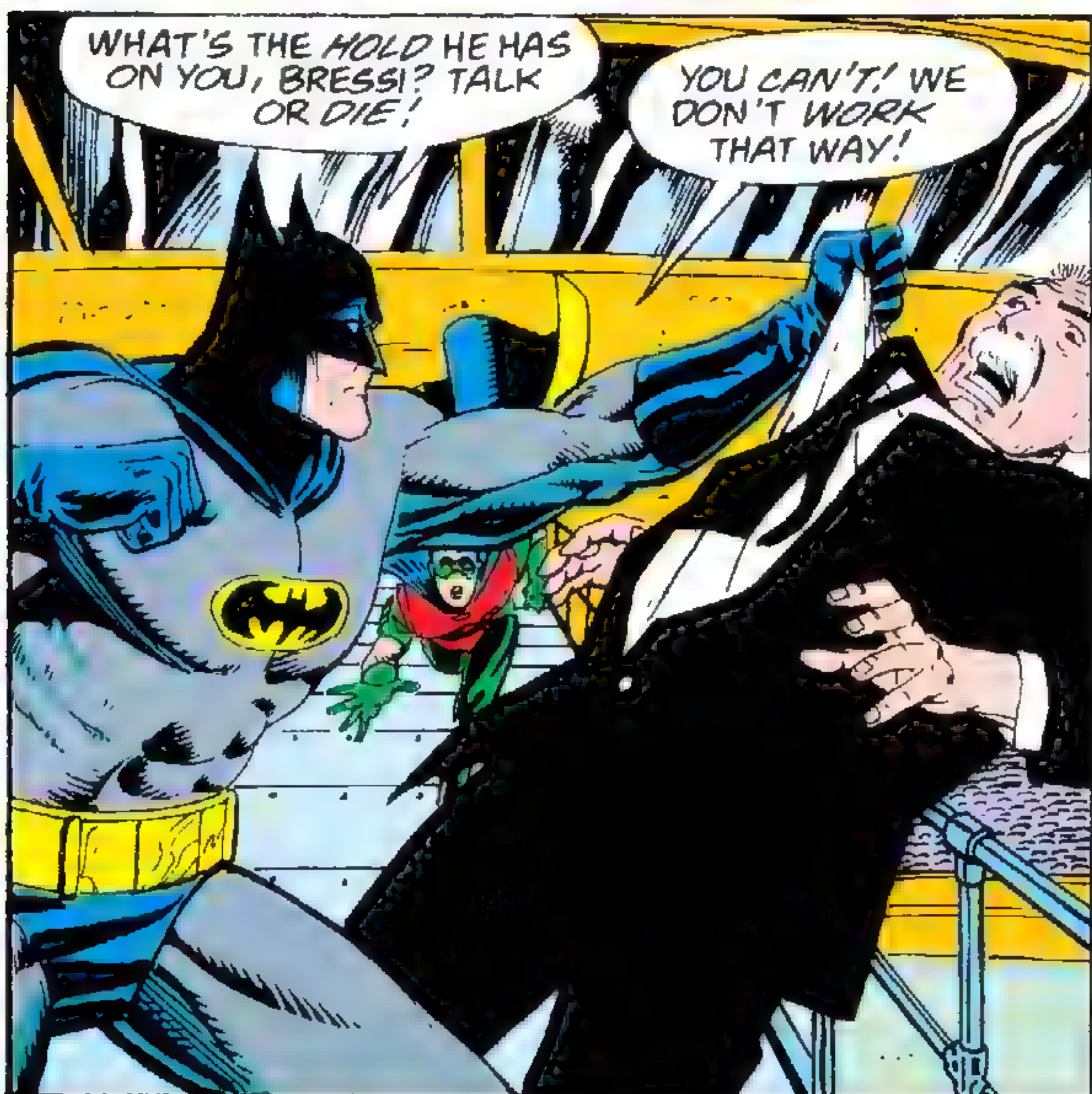
NO.

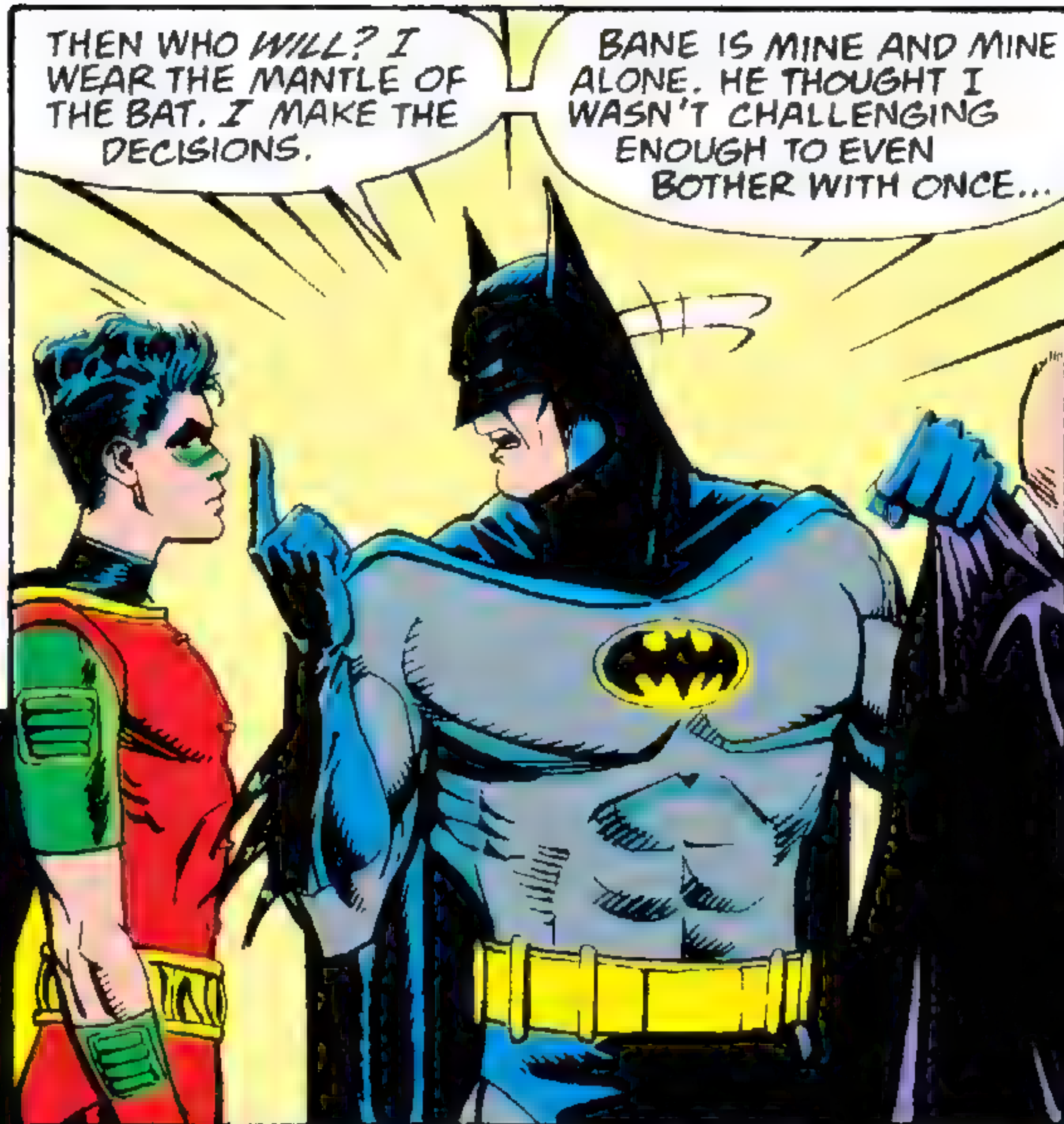
HE'S OUR ONLY LEAD TO BANE. I CAN'T LET HIM SLIP AWAY.

SHOULD I GIVE PAUL ANOTHER CHANCE OR TELL BRUCE ABOUT TONIGHT?











BATMAN

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SEP 93

MOENCH

APARO

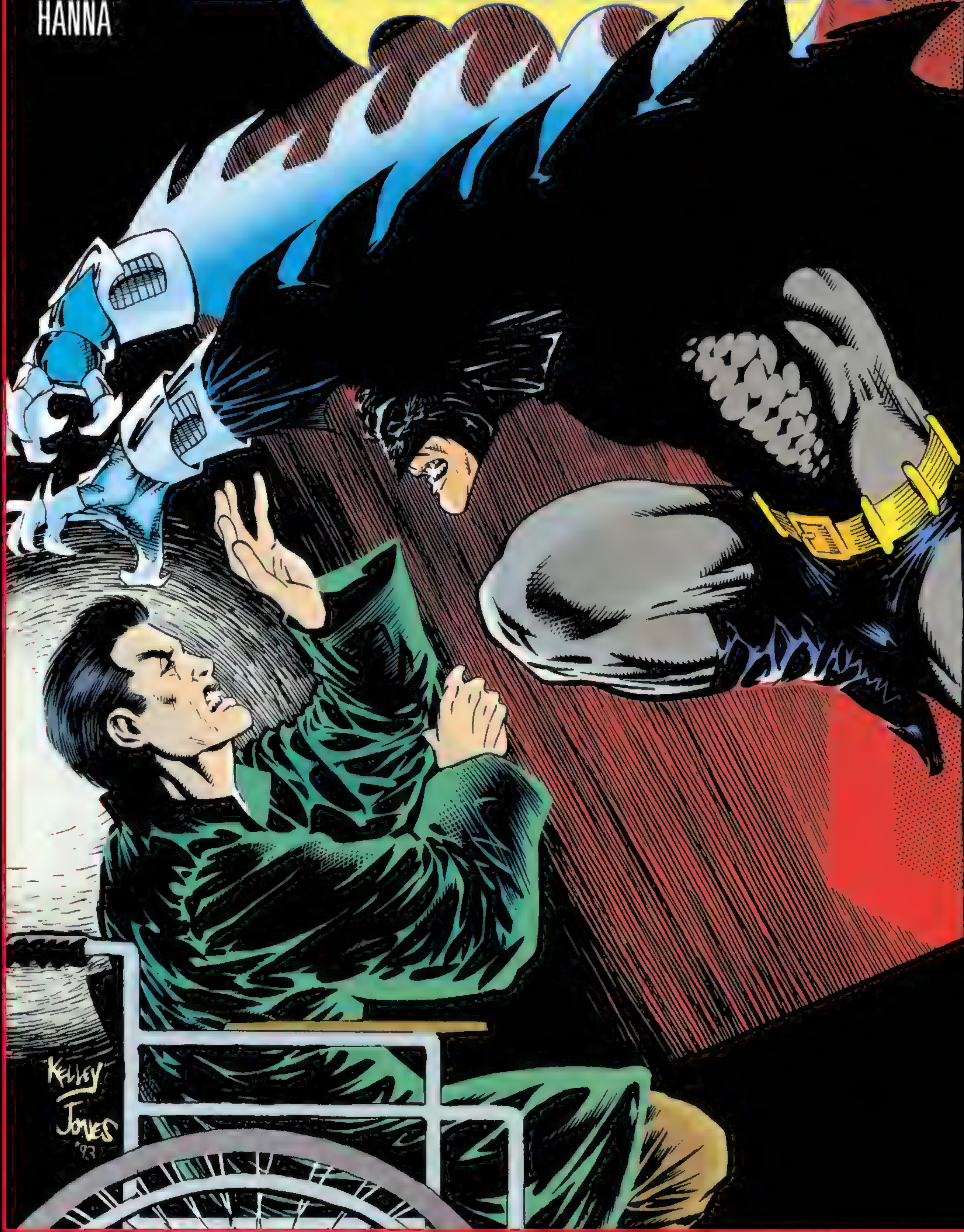
HANNA

KNIGHTFALL

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BATMAN

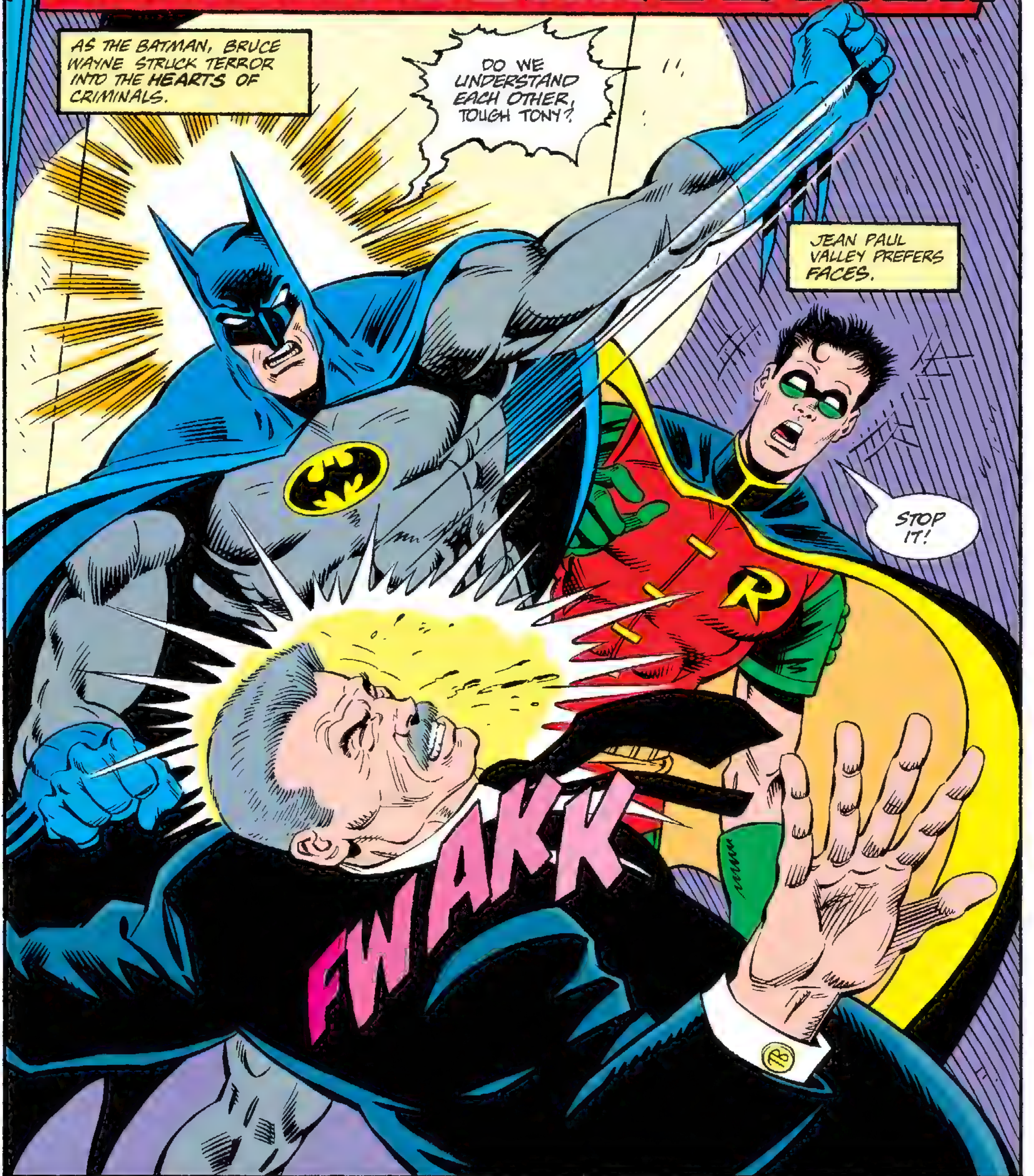


Kelley
Jones
'93



Cover art by
KELLEY JONES

THE VANDERBILT CONNECTION



DOUG MOENCH--JIM APARO--SCOTT HANNA--ADRIENNE ROY--KEN BRUZENAK--JORDAN B. GORFINKEL--DENNIS O'NEIL--BOB KANE
writer artist inker colorist letterer vaccine creator editor Batman creator



IT'S TURNING INTO A NIGHTMARE...

THERE'S NO NEED TO BEAT HIM LIKE—

YOU SHUT UP!

...THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE BATMAN-ROBIN TEAM IS NOTHING BUT A BAD JOKE.



HE'S OUT OF CONTROL-- AND THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE I CAN SAY IN FRONT OF BRESSI WITHOUT BLOWING OUR COVER.

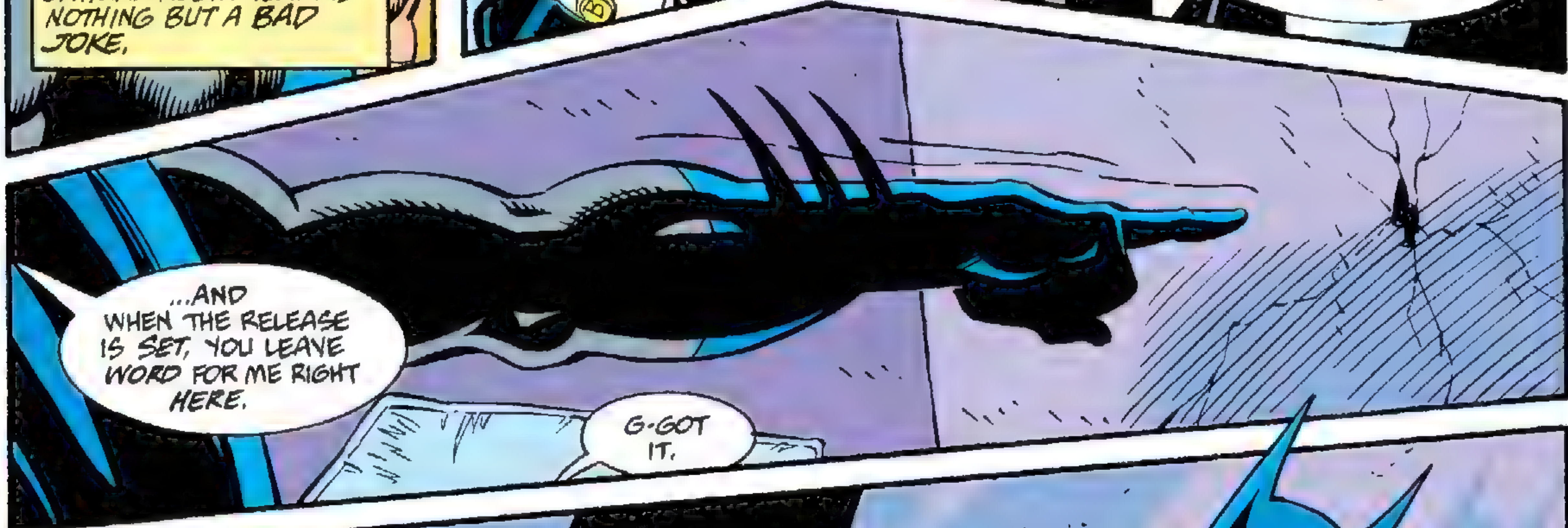
NOW--DO WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING, TOUGH TONY?

Y-YEAH... SURE...



YOU KEEP THE OTHER DONS HERE LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CONVINCE BANE WE'RE HANDING OVER THE UNIONS...

...SO HE HANDS OVER MY KIDS.



...AND WHEN THE RELEASE IS SET, YOU LEAVE WORD FOR ME RIGHT HERE.

G-GOT IT.



THEN GET OUT OF HERE--AND START CONTACTING BANE'S PEOPLE!

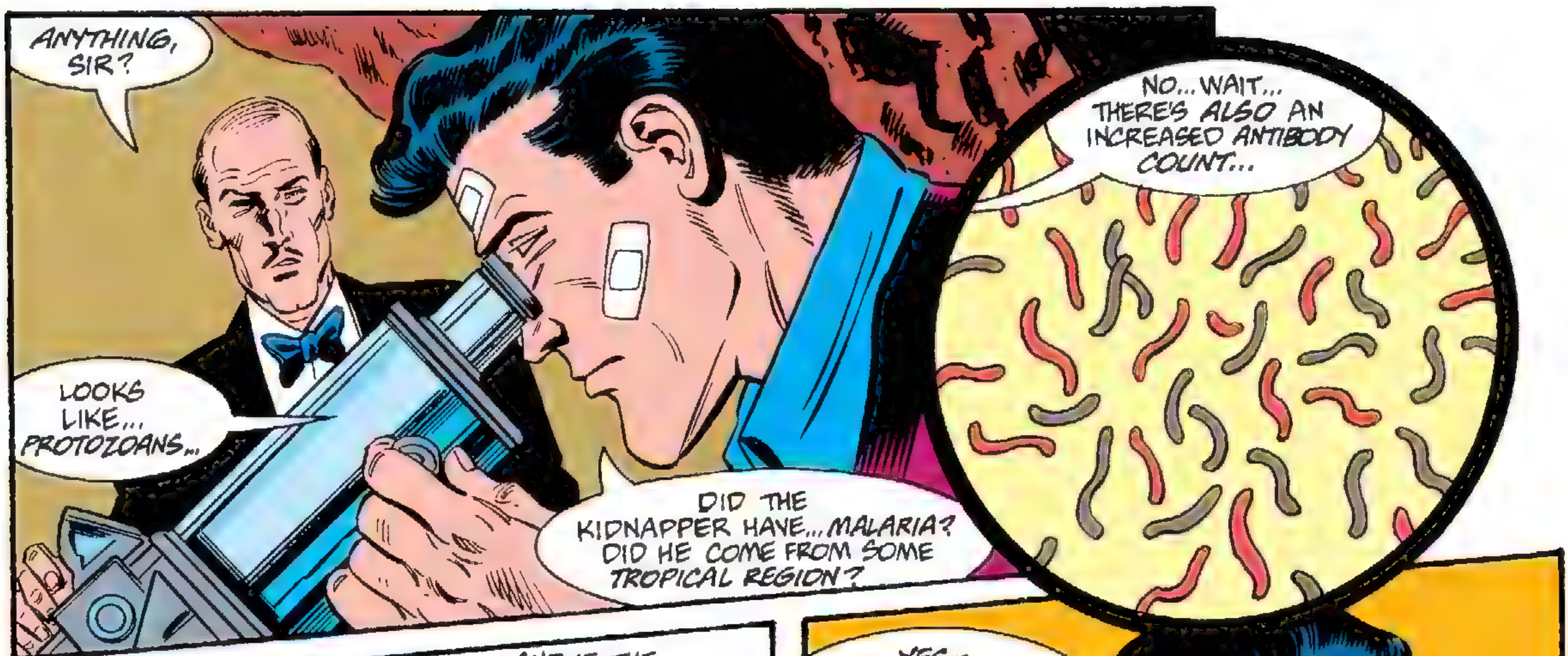
I...I'LL DO IT--YOU KNOW I'LL DO IT--ANYTHING TO GET MY KIDS BACK.



FORGET YOUR KIDS! YOU CROSS ME ON THIS, TOUGH TONY, AND I'LL MAKE YOU EAT YOUR EYES.

BRUCE WAS TOUGH, BUT NEVER LIKE THIS, WHATEVER THE SCORE, HE PLAYED IT STRAIGHT AND HE WON...



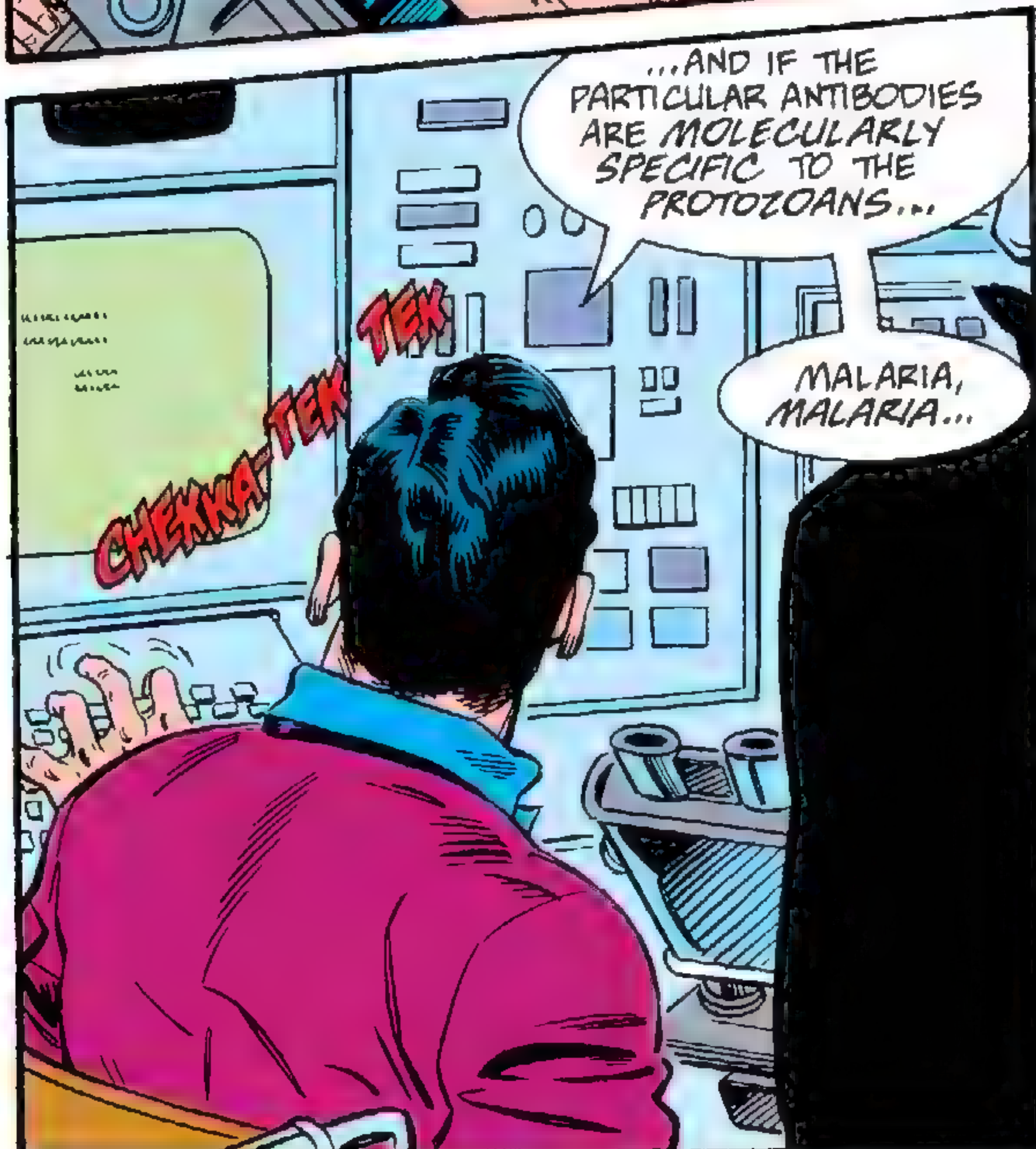


ANYTHING, SIR?

LOOKS LIKE... PROTOZOANS...

DID THE KIDNAPPER HAVE... MALARIA? DID HE COME FROM SOME TROPICAL REGION?

NO... WAIT... THERE'S ALSO AN INCREASED ANTIBODY COUNT...



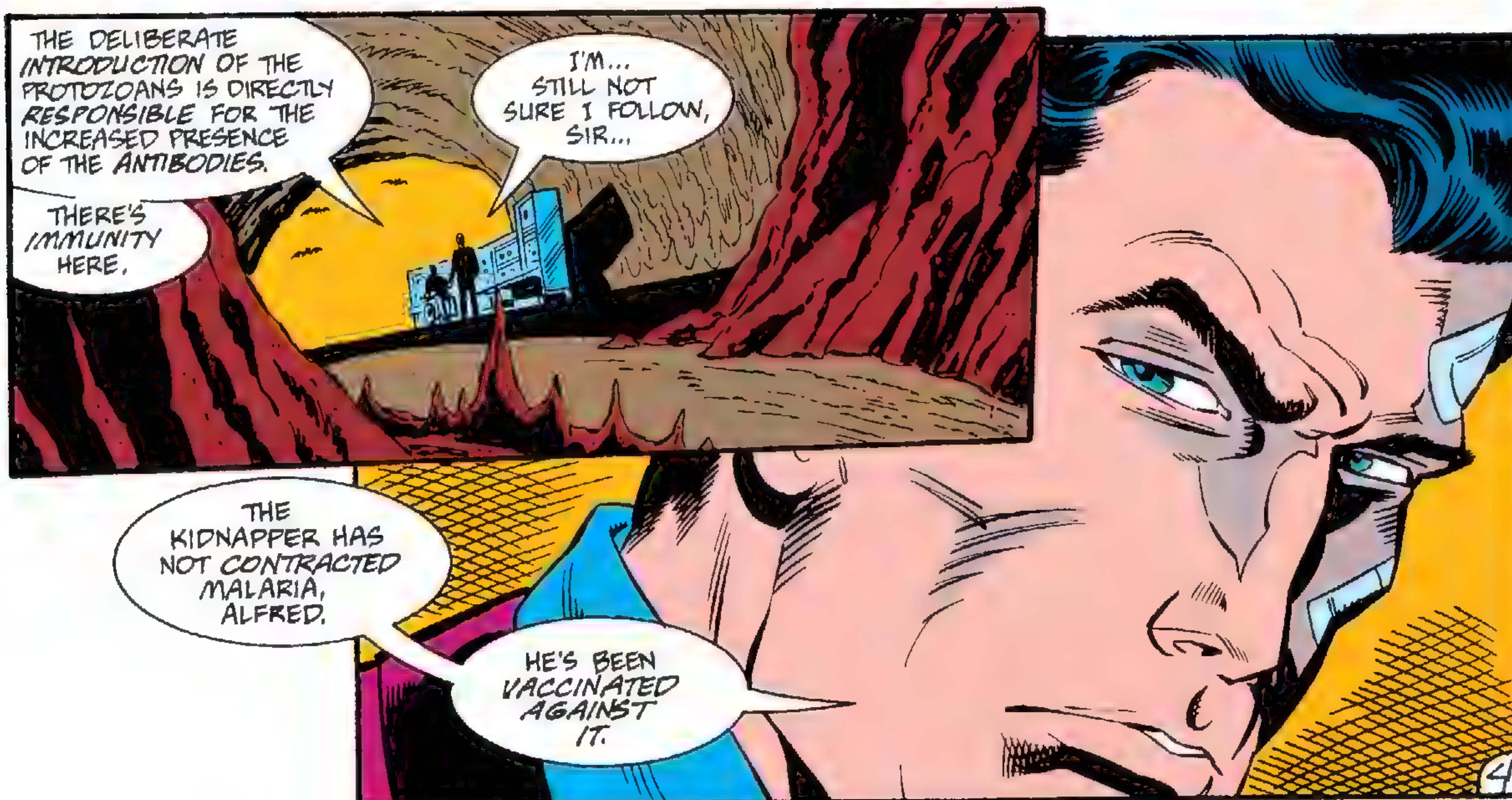
...AND IF THE PARTICULAR ANTIBODIES ARE MOLECULARLY SPECIFIC TO THE PROTOZOANS...

MALARIA, MALARIA...

YES-- THAT'S IT-- RIGHT HERE IN THE COMPUTERIZED DIRECTORY!

AH... WHAT IS WHAT, SIR?

THE ANSWER--WE'VE LUCKED OUT.



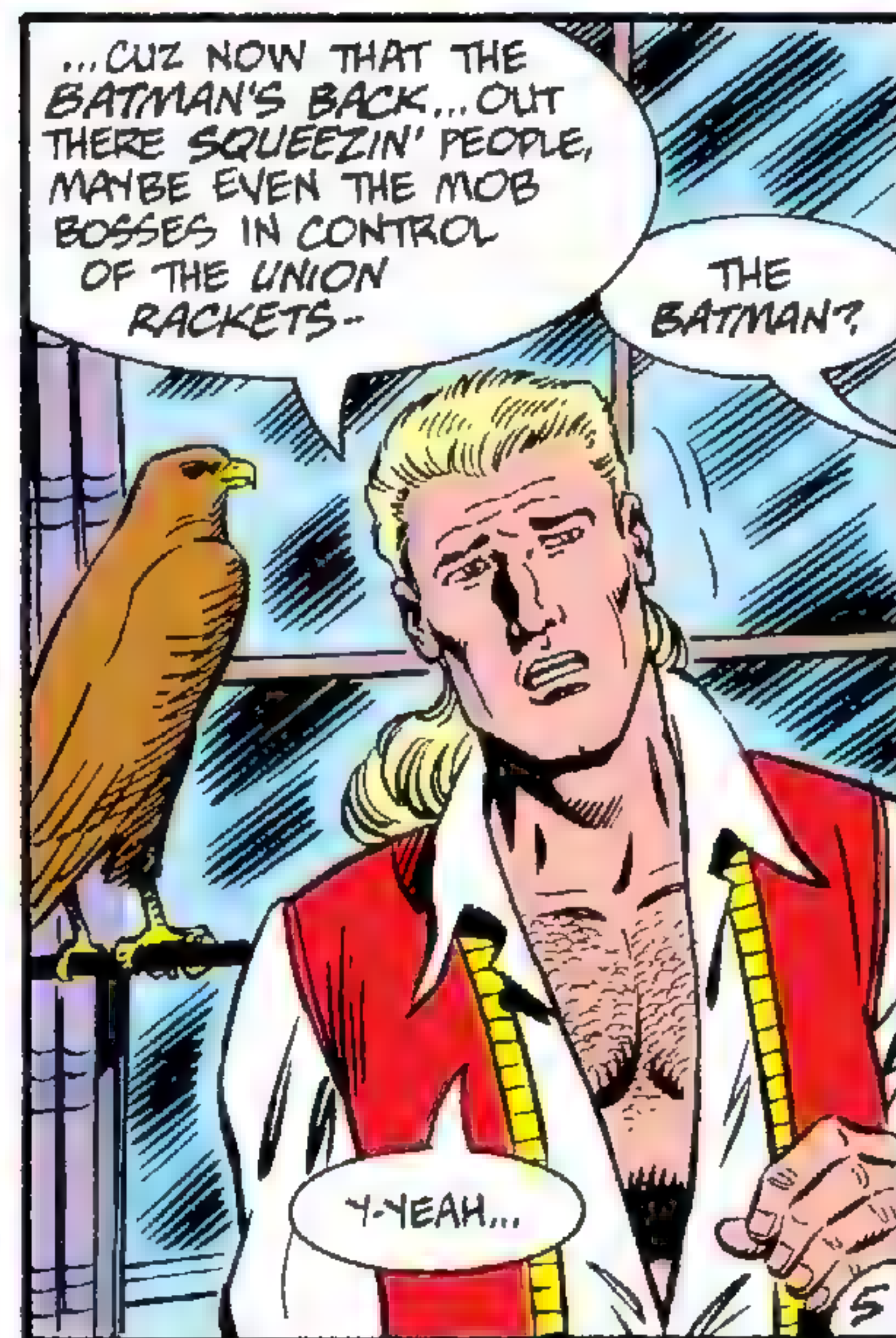
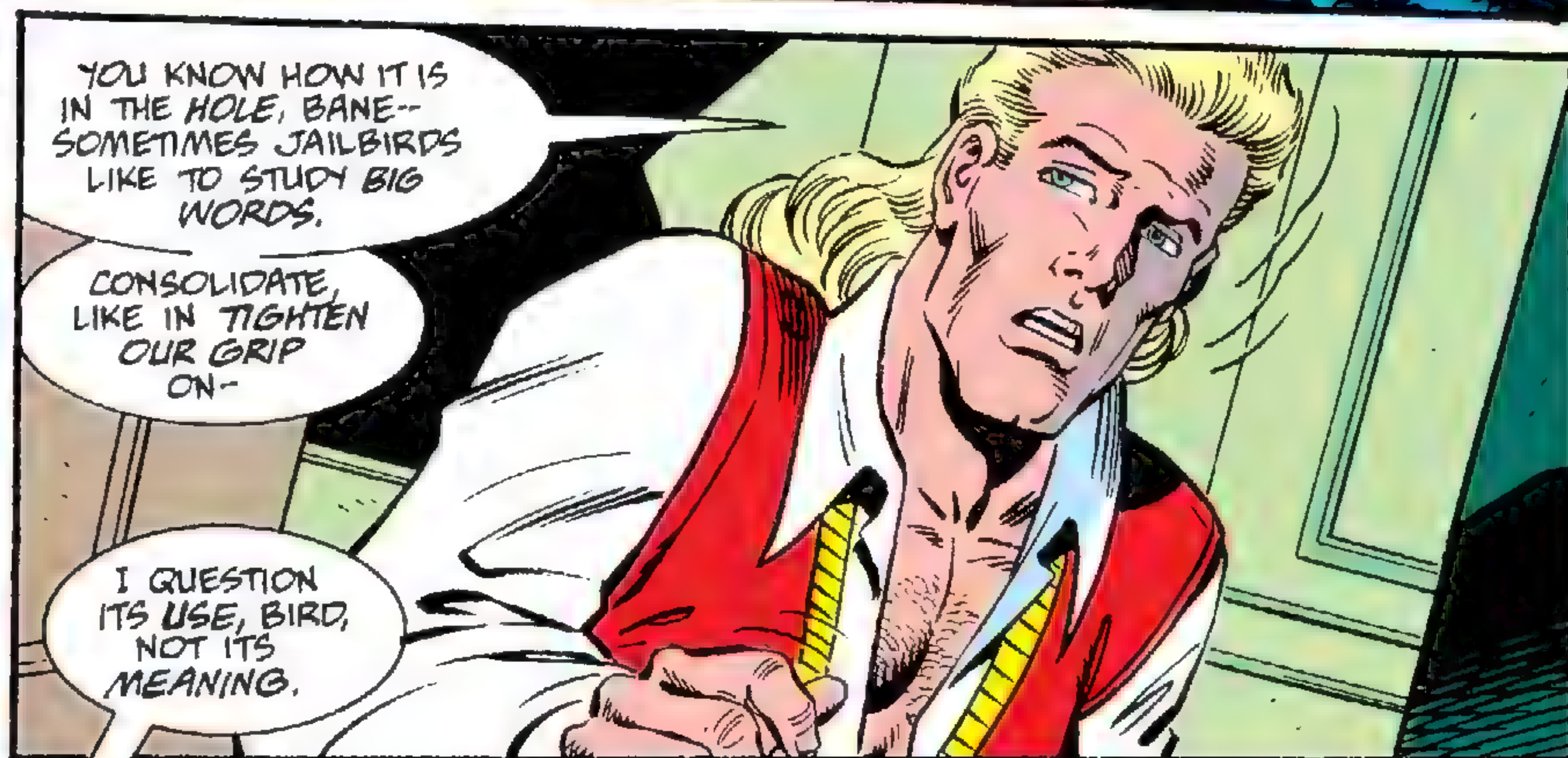
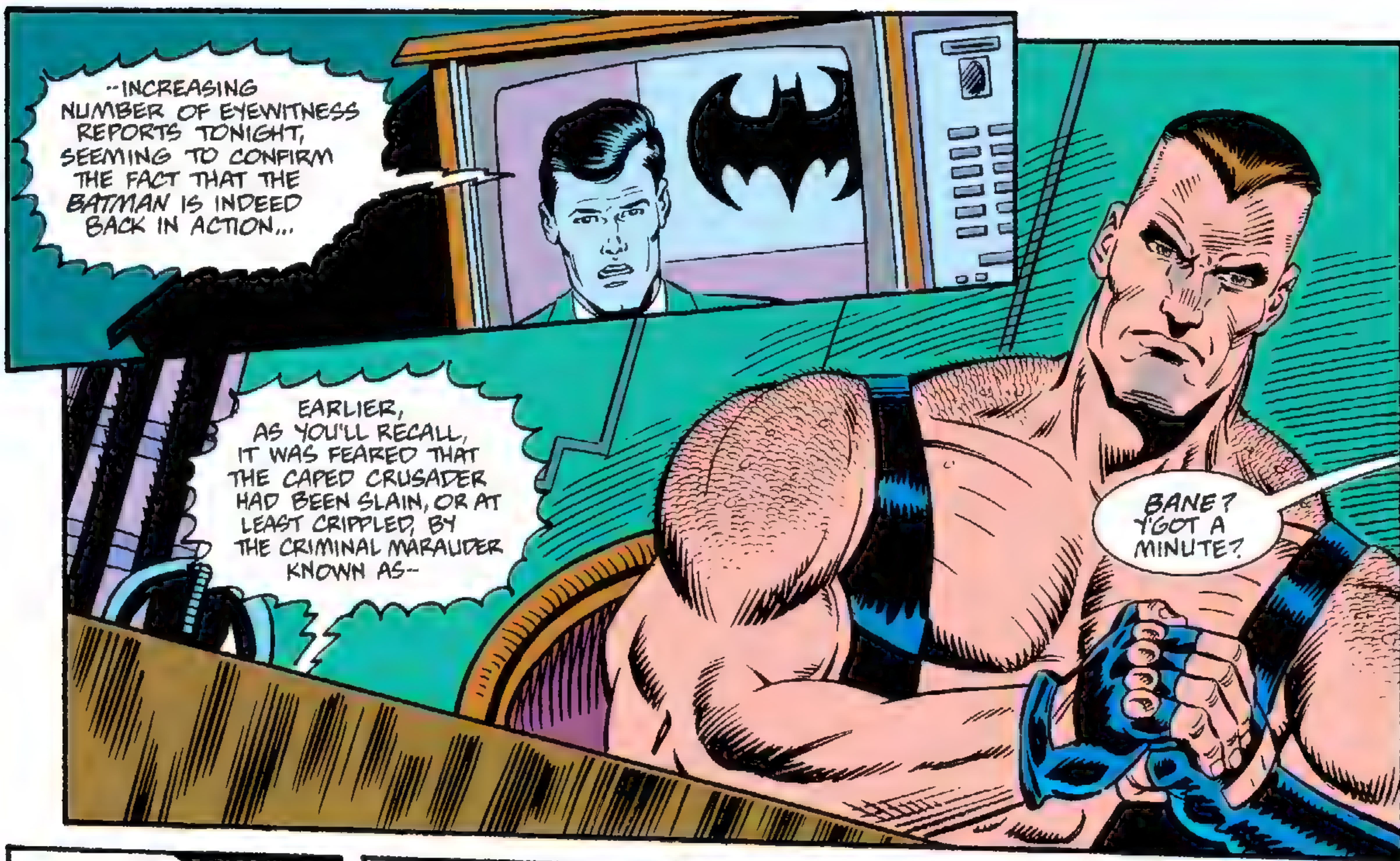
THE DELIBERATE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTOZOANS IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASED PRESENCE OF THE ANTIBODIES.

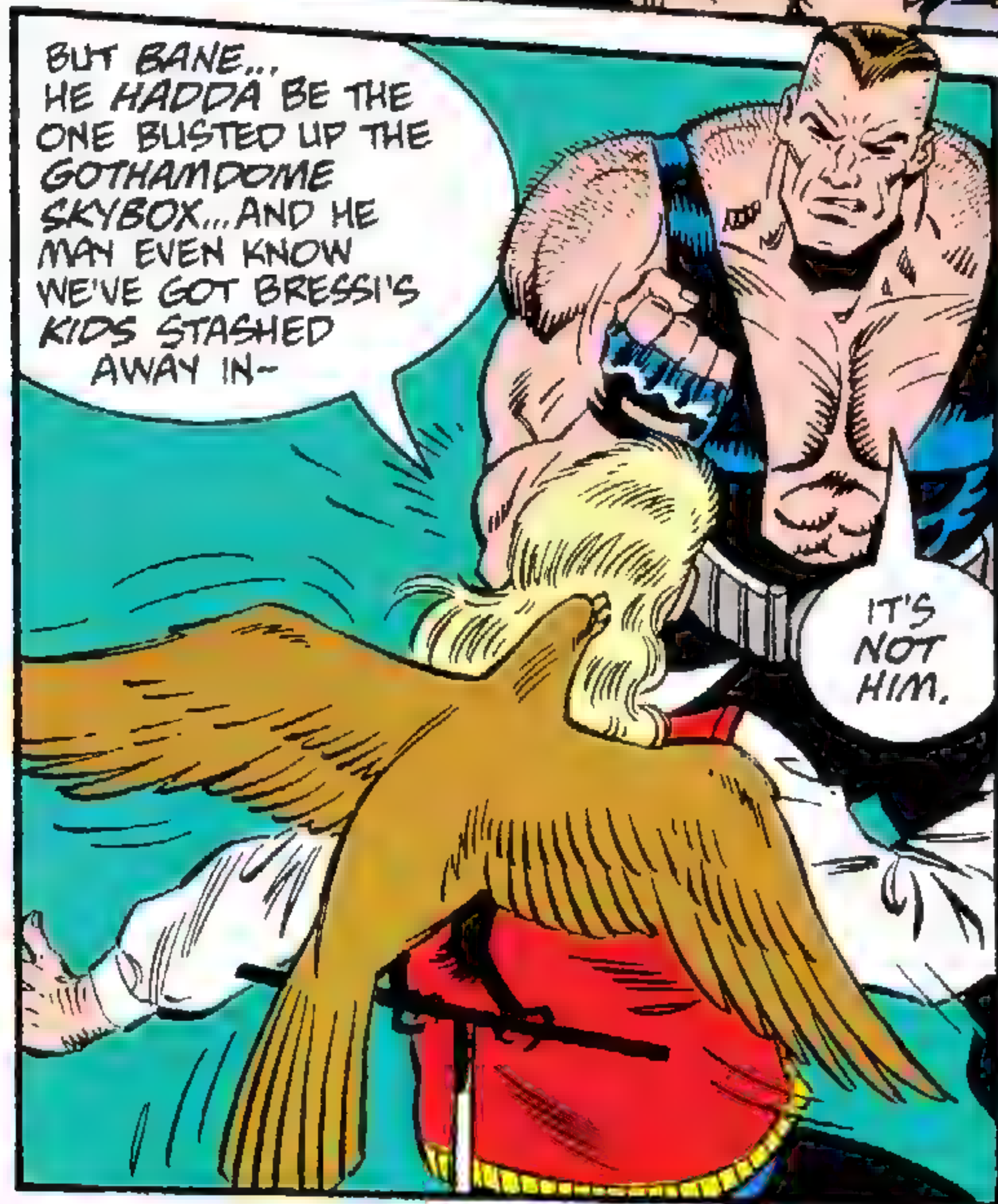
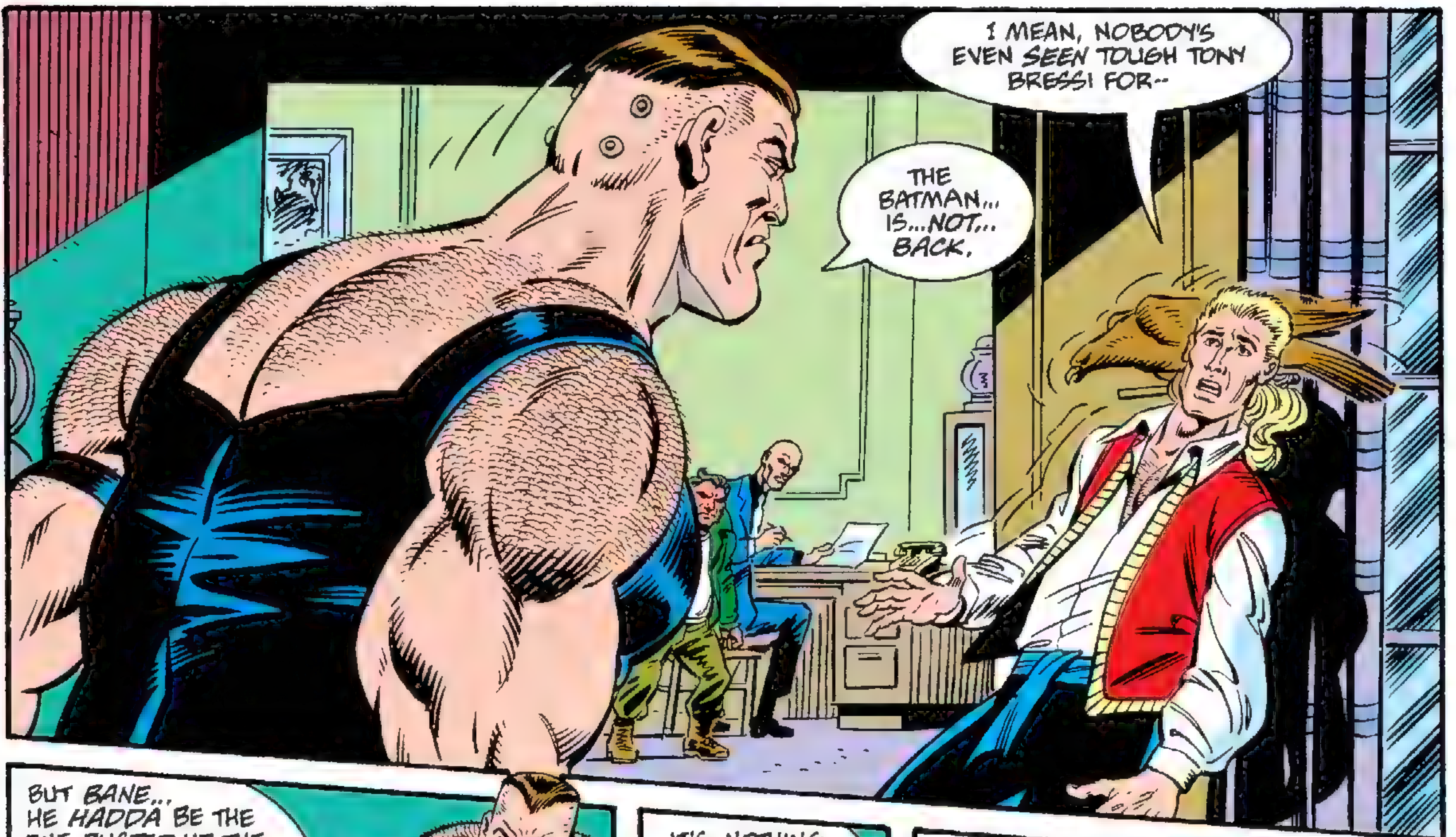
THERE'S IMMUNITY HERE.

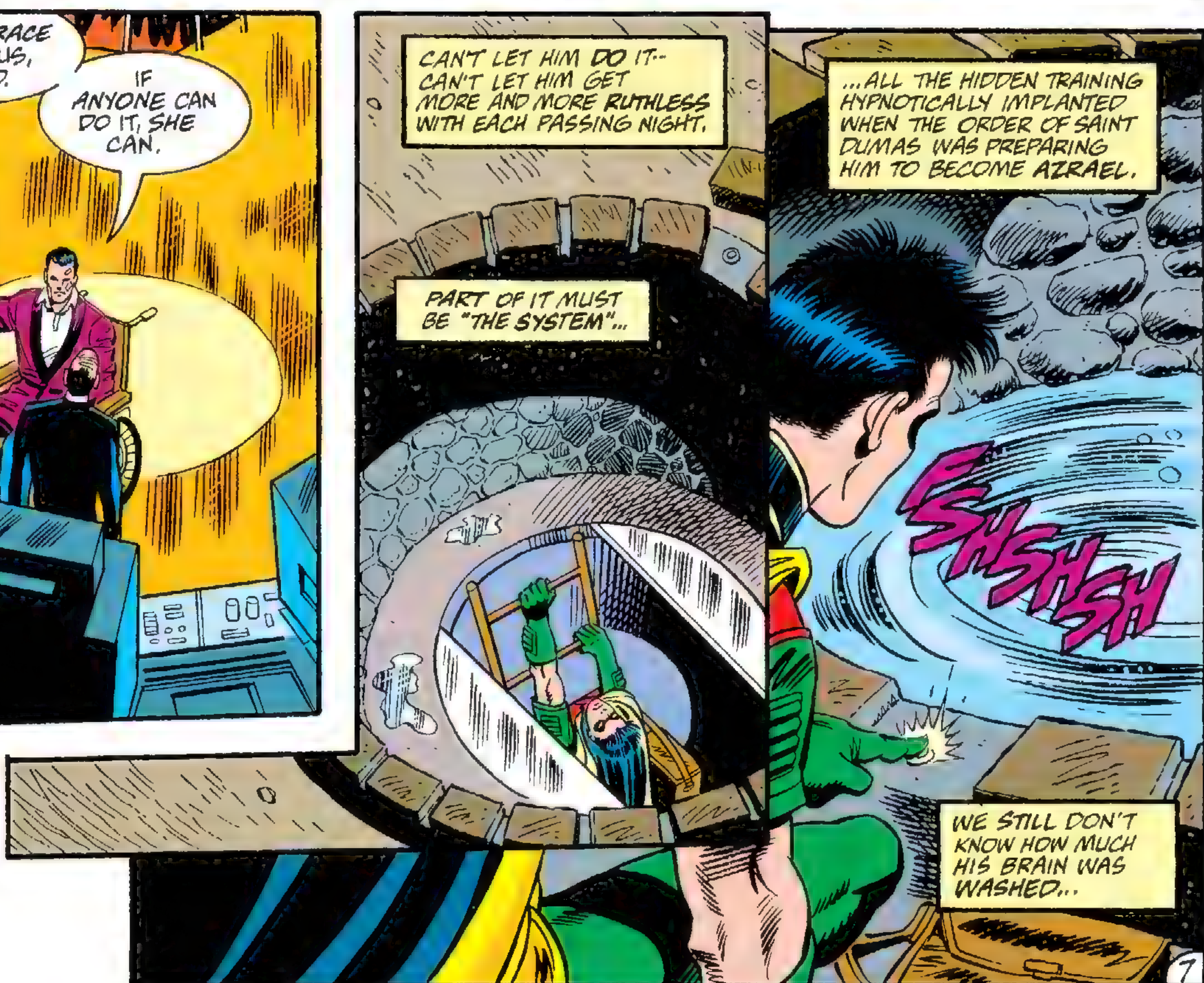
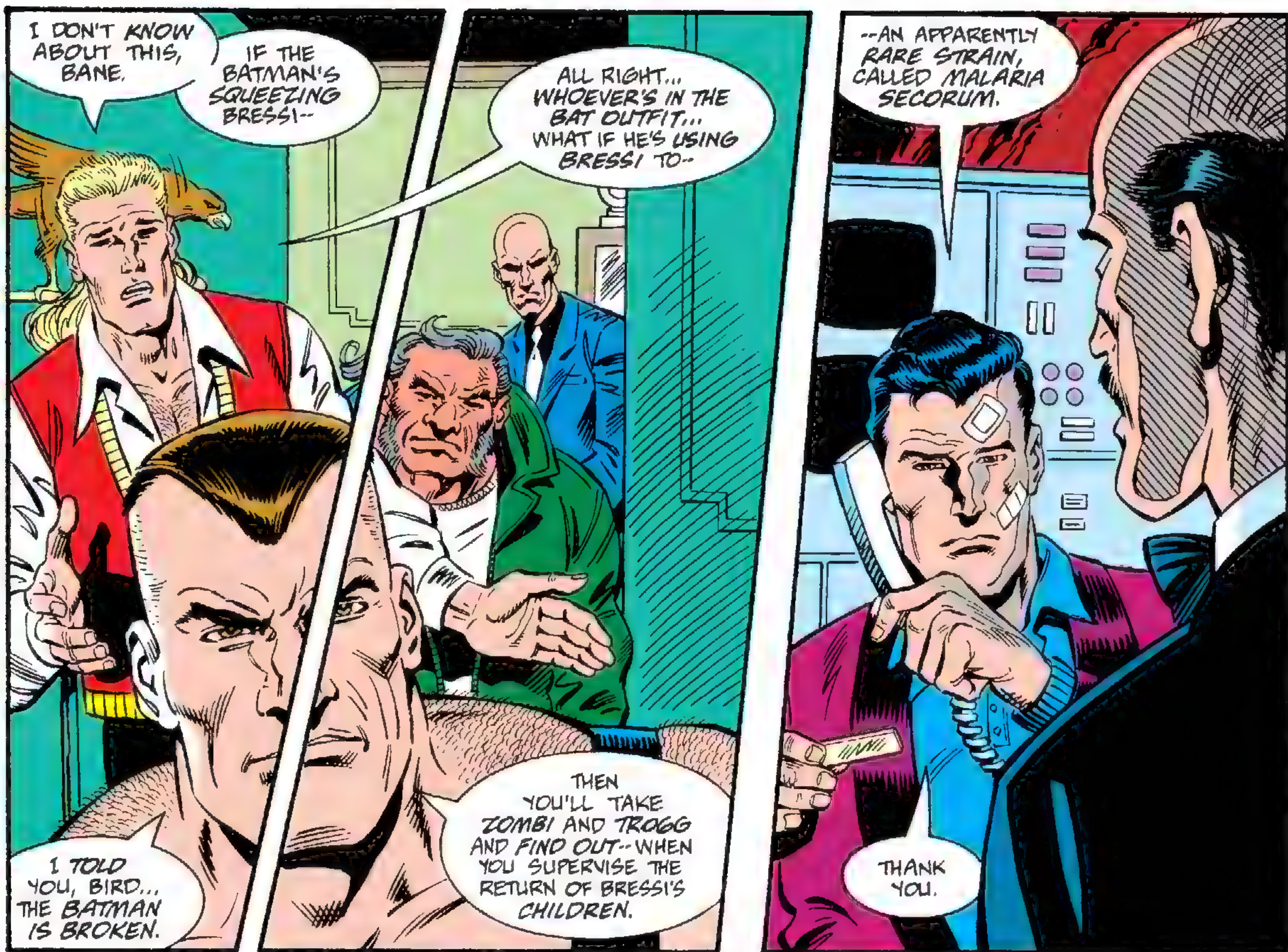
I'M... STILL NOT SURE I FOLLOW, SIR...

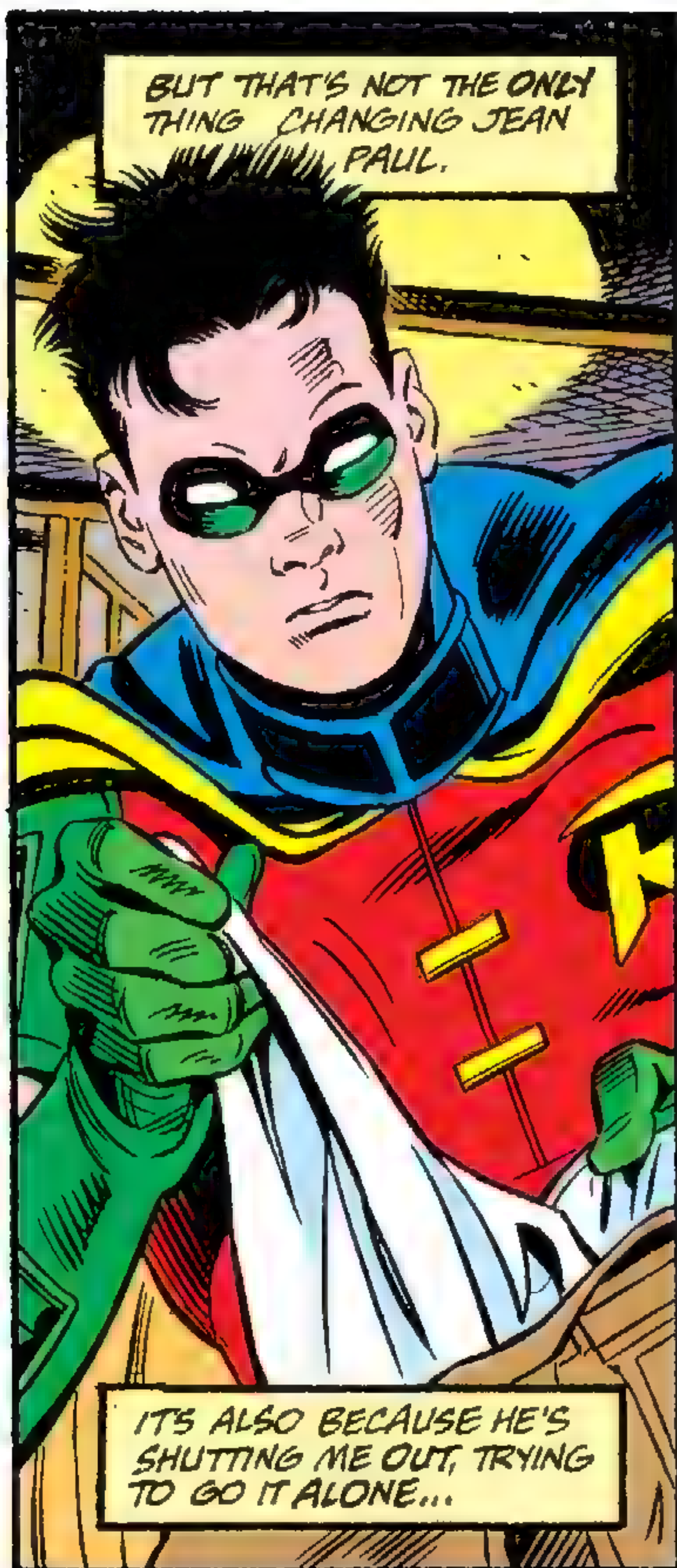
THE KIDNAPPER HAS NOT CONTRACTED MALARIA, ALFRED.

HE'S BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST IT.









BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING CHANGING JEAN PAUL.

IT'S ALSO BECAUSE HE'S SHUTTING ME OUT, TRYING TO GO IT ALONE...



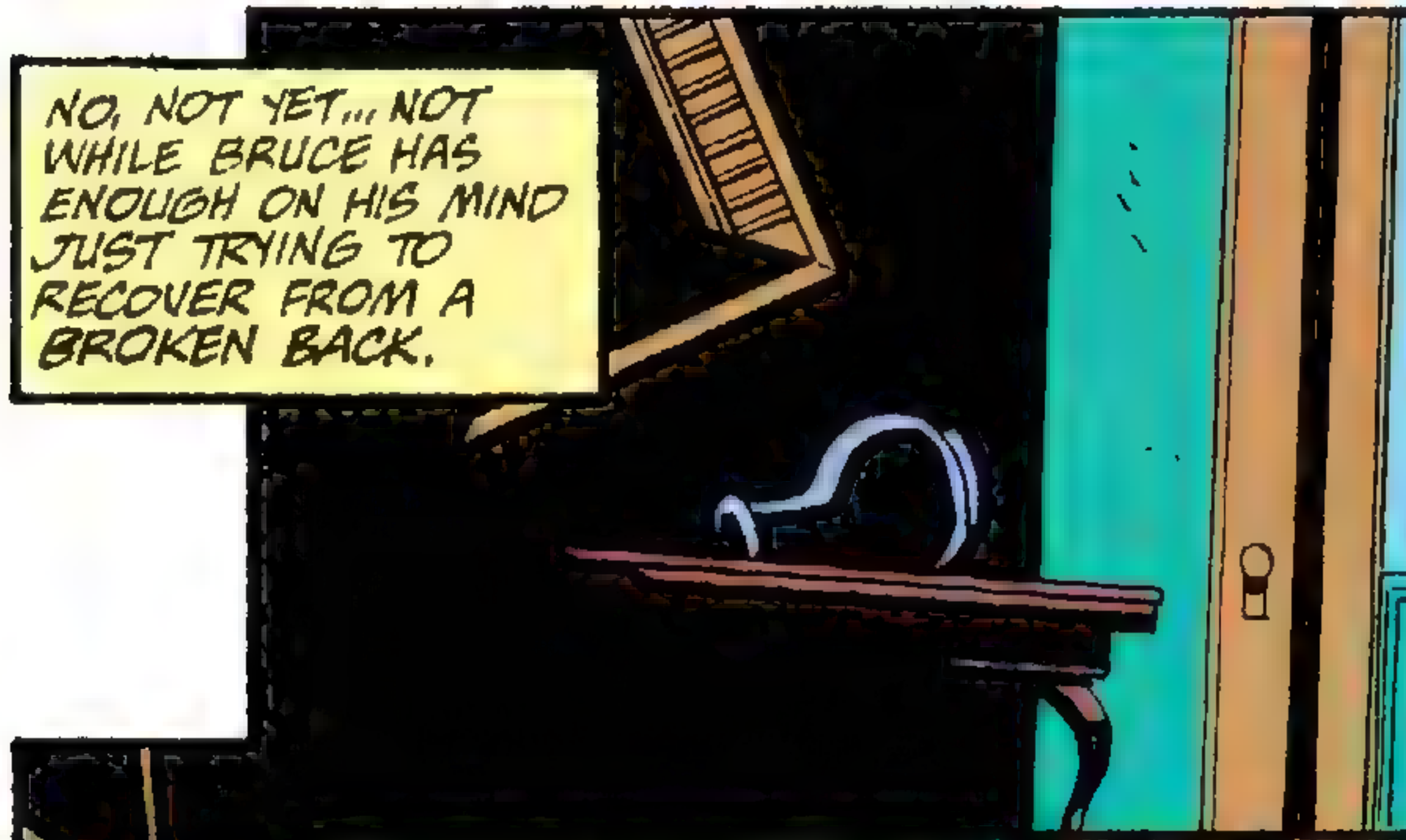
THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO BRUCE WHEN JASON TODD DIED.

THE BATMAN STARTED GETTING DARKER AND GRIMMER WITHOUT THE BALANCE OF A ROBIN TO GROUND HIM AND KEEP HIM SANE.



BUT WHAT IF JEAN PAUL WON'T LET ME KEEP HIM SANE?

SHOULD I TELL BRUCE HE MADE A MISTAKE?

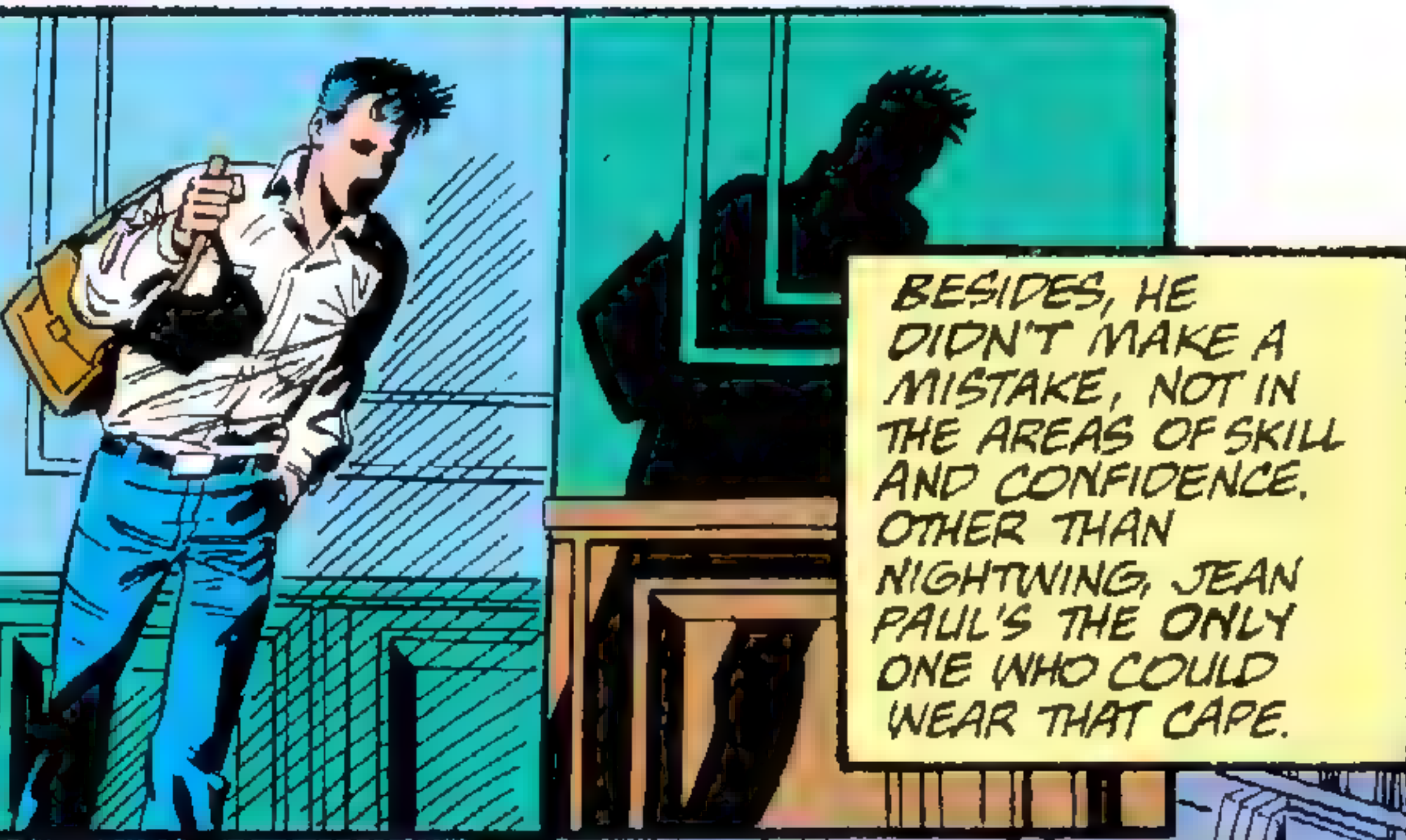


NO, NOT YET... NOT WHILE BRUCE HAS ENOUGH ON HIS MIND JUST TRYING TO RECOVER FROM A BROKEN BACK.

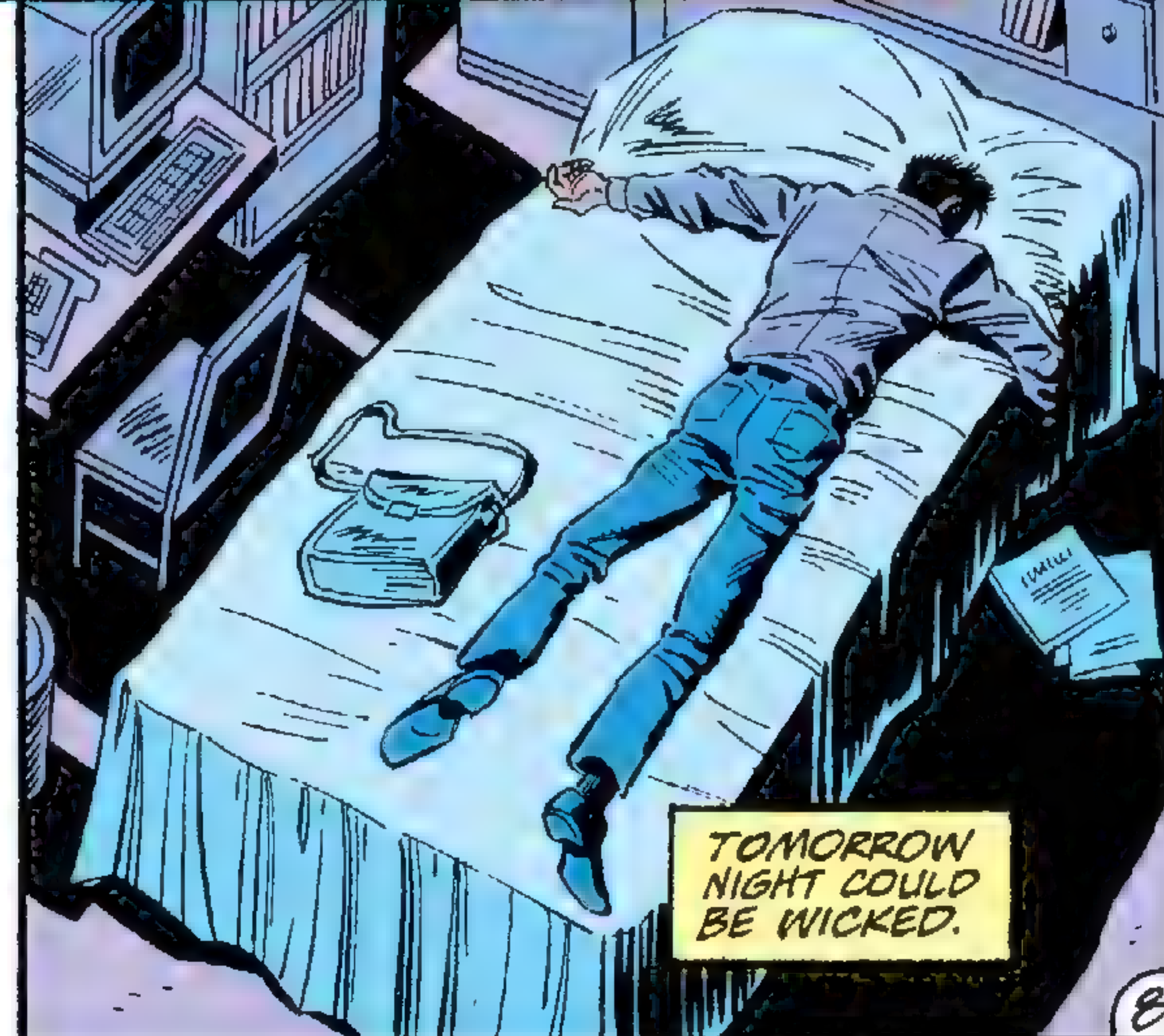


DAD MUST BE SOUND ASLEEP FOR A CHANGE-- AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I NEED.

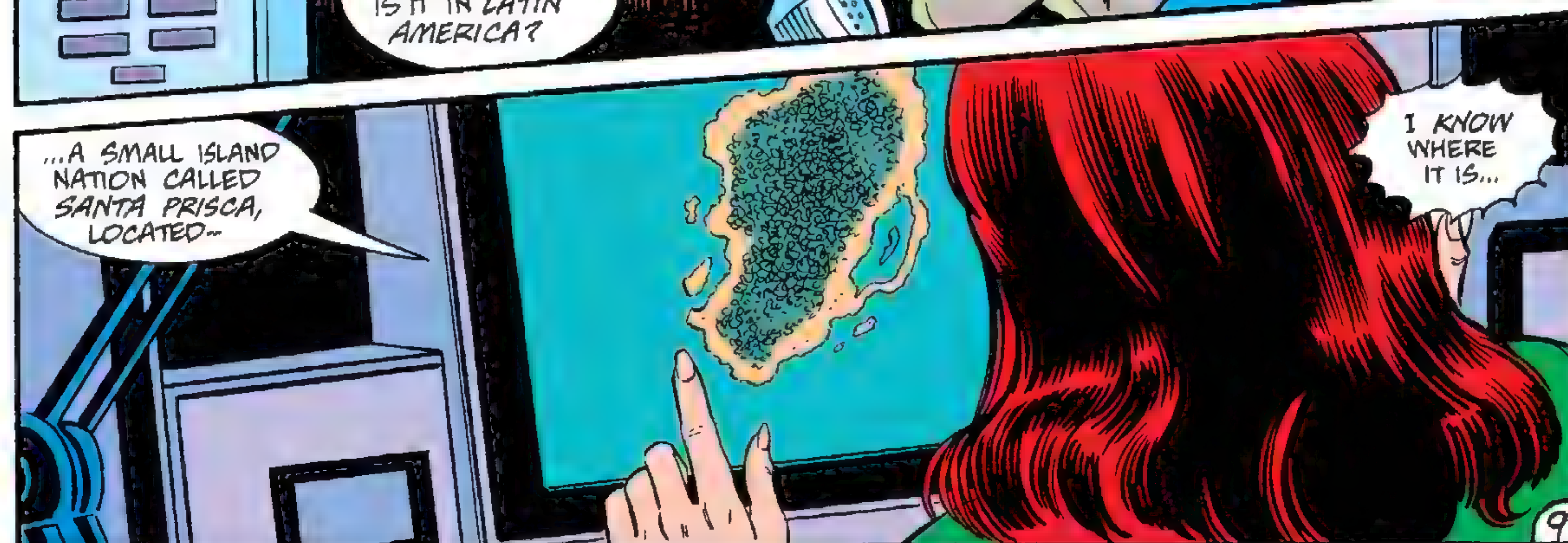
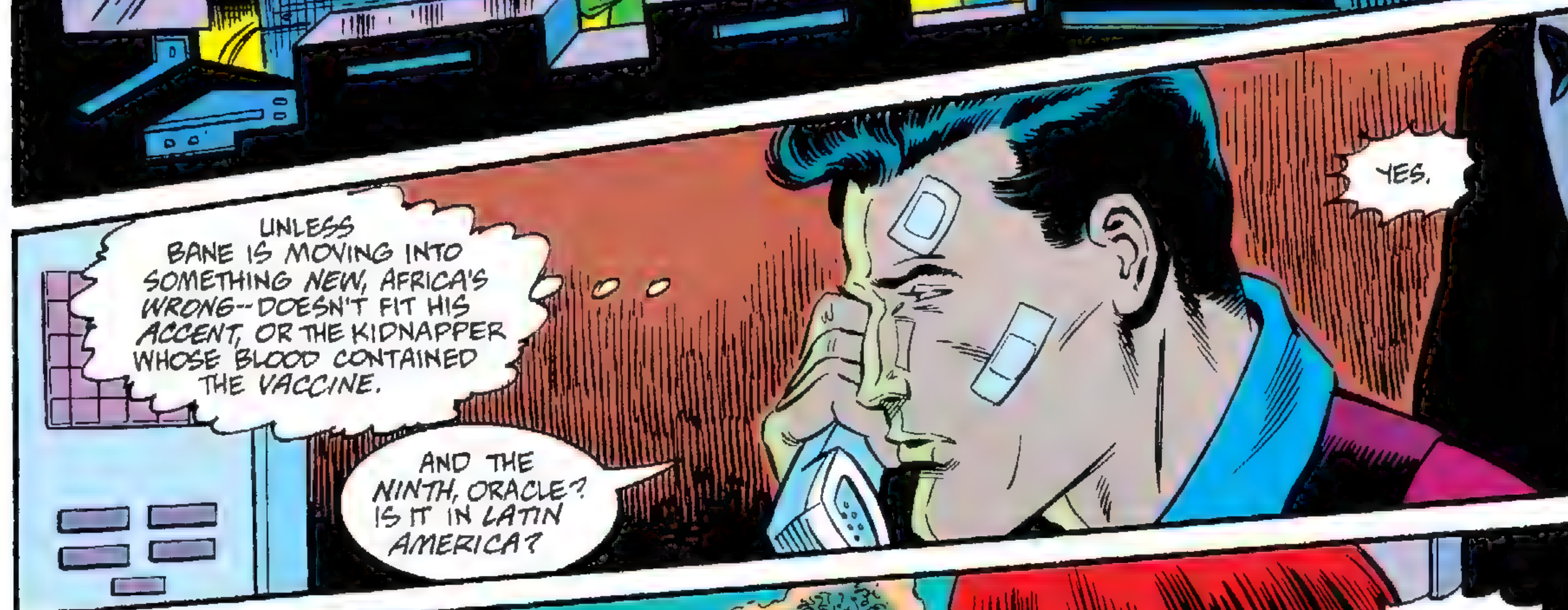
KEEPING UP WITH JEAN PAUL TONIGHT WAS BAD ENOUGH...

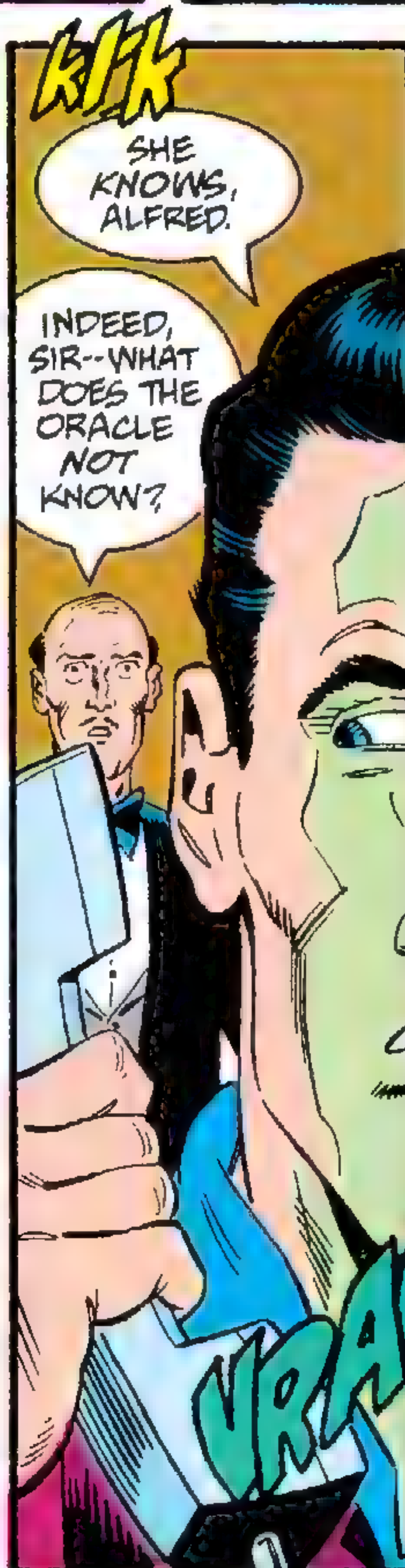
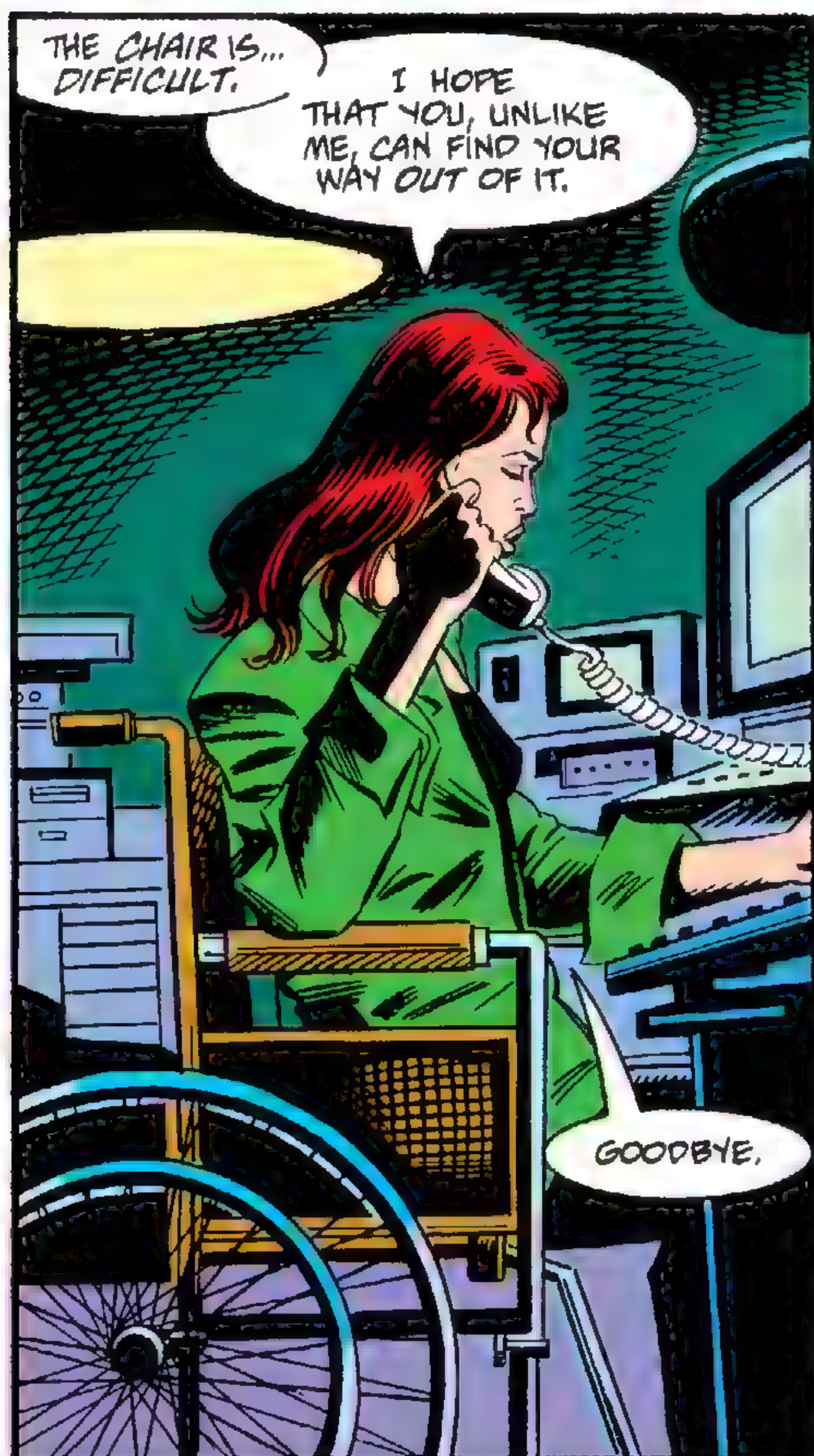


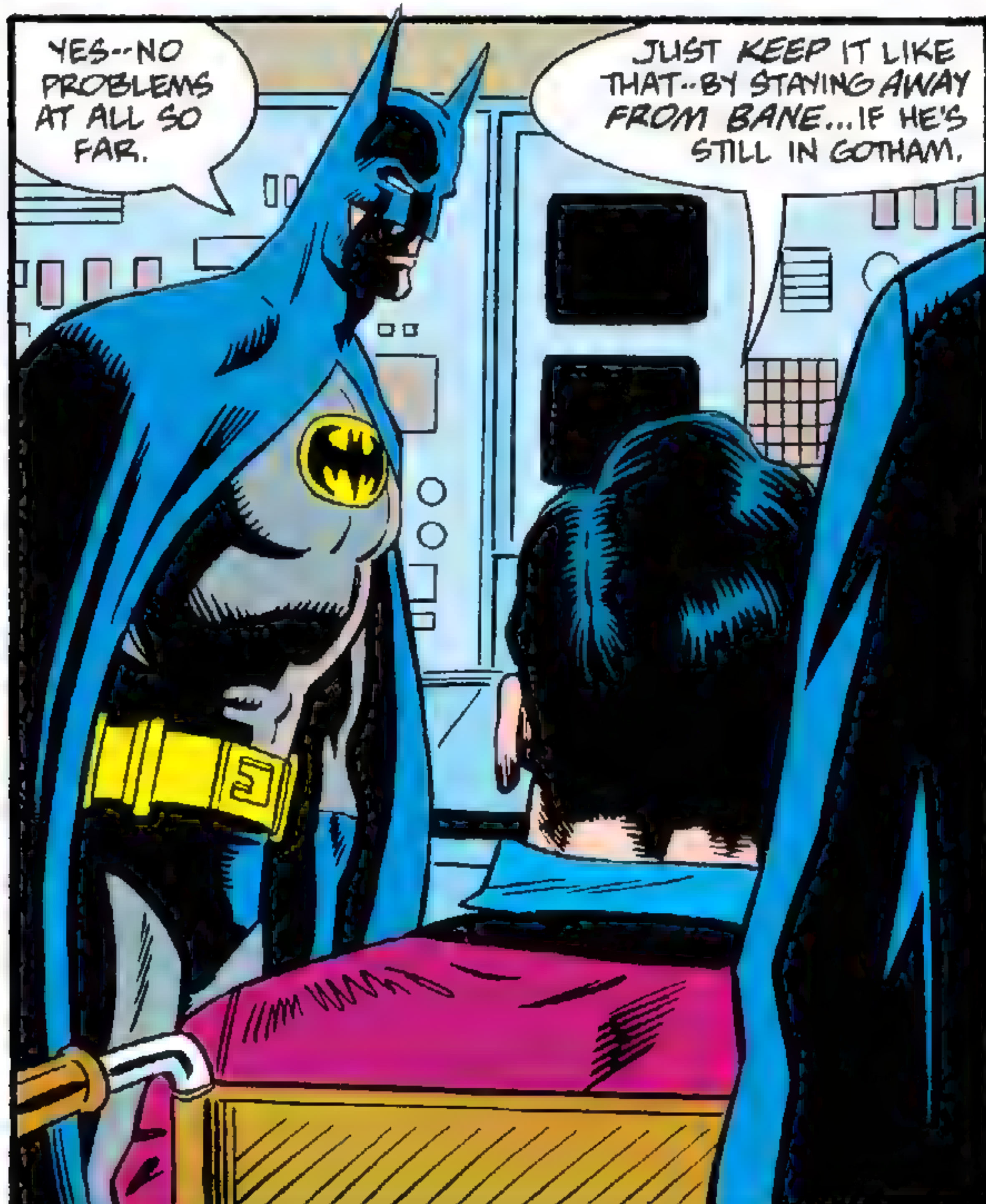
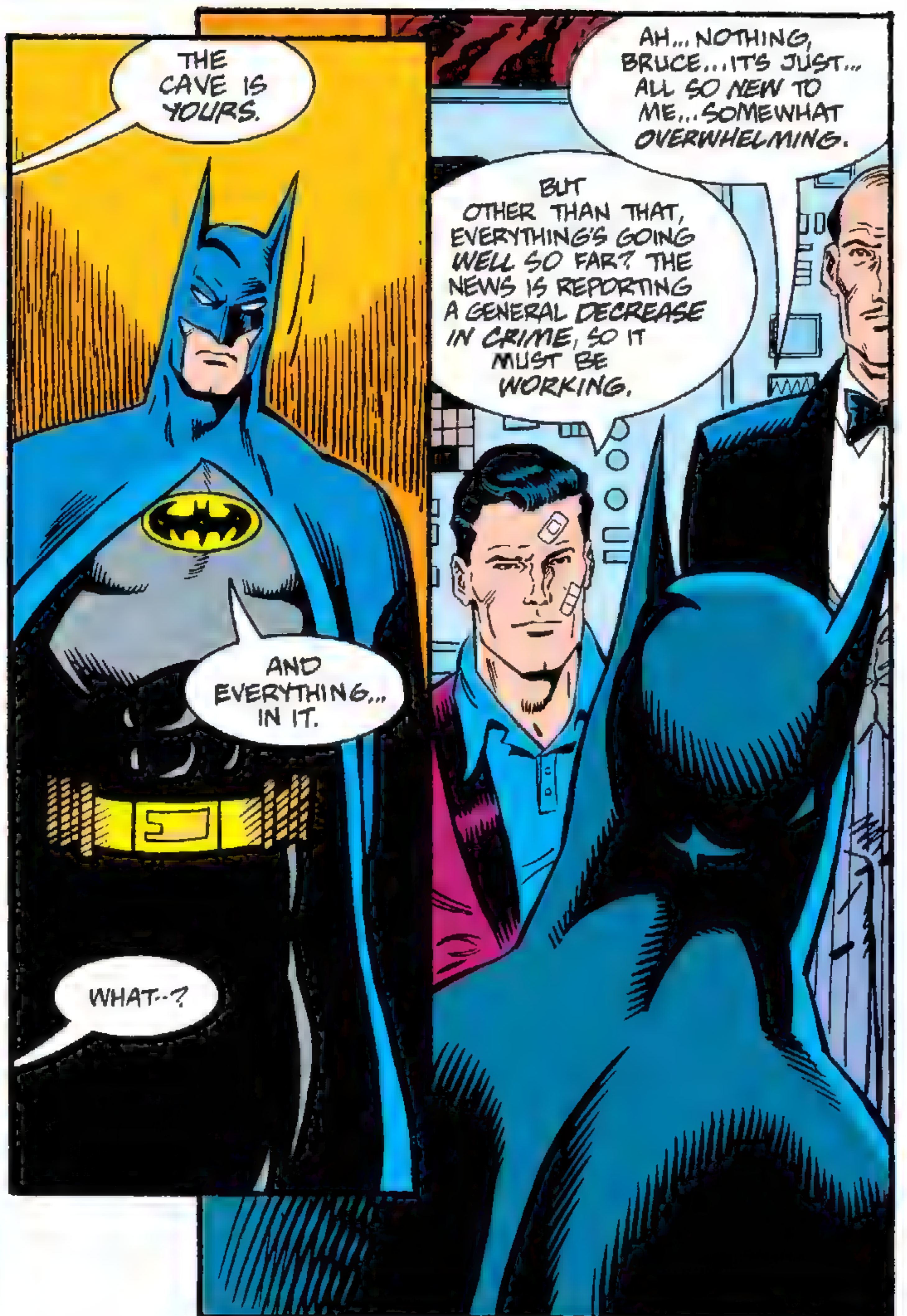
BESIDES, HE DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE, NOT IN THE AREAS OF SKILL AND CONFIDENCE. OTHER THAN NIGHTWING, JEAN PAUL'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD WEAR THAT CAPE.

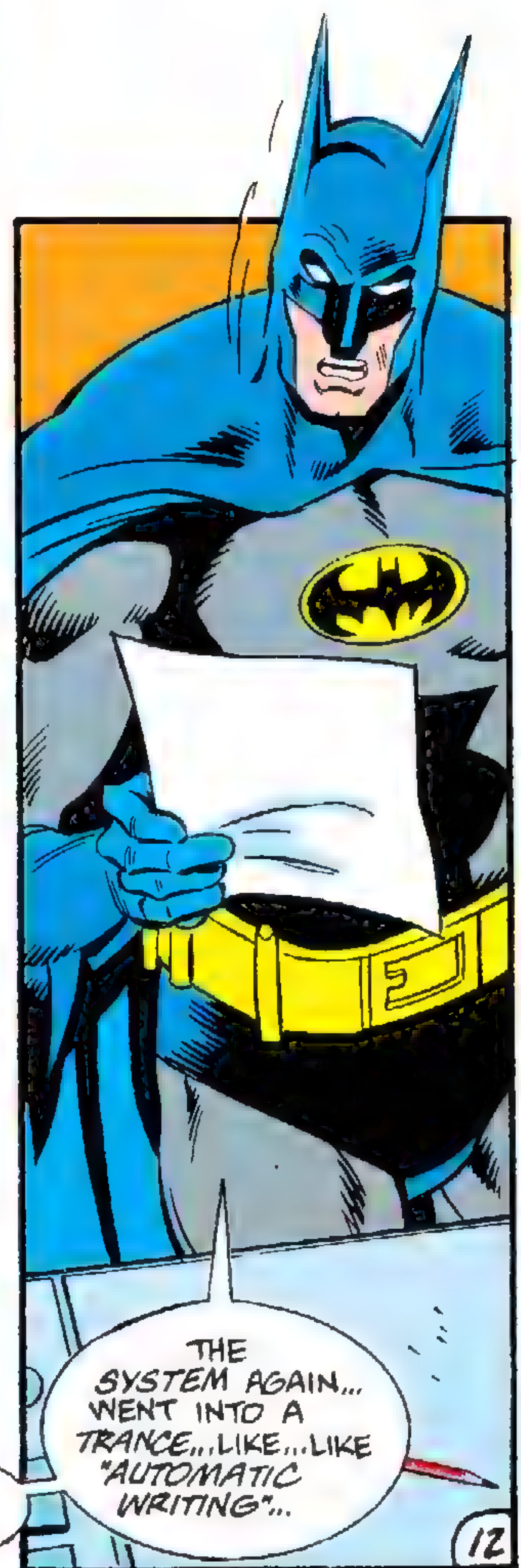
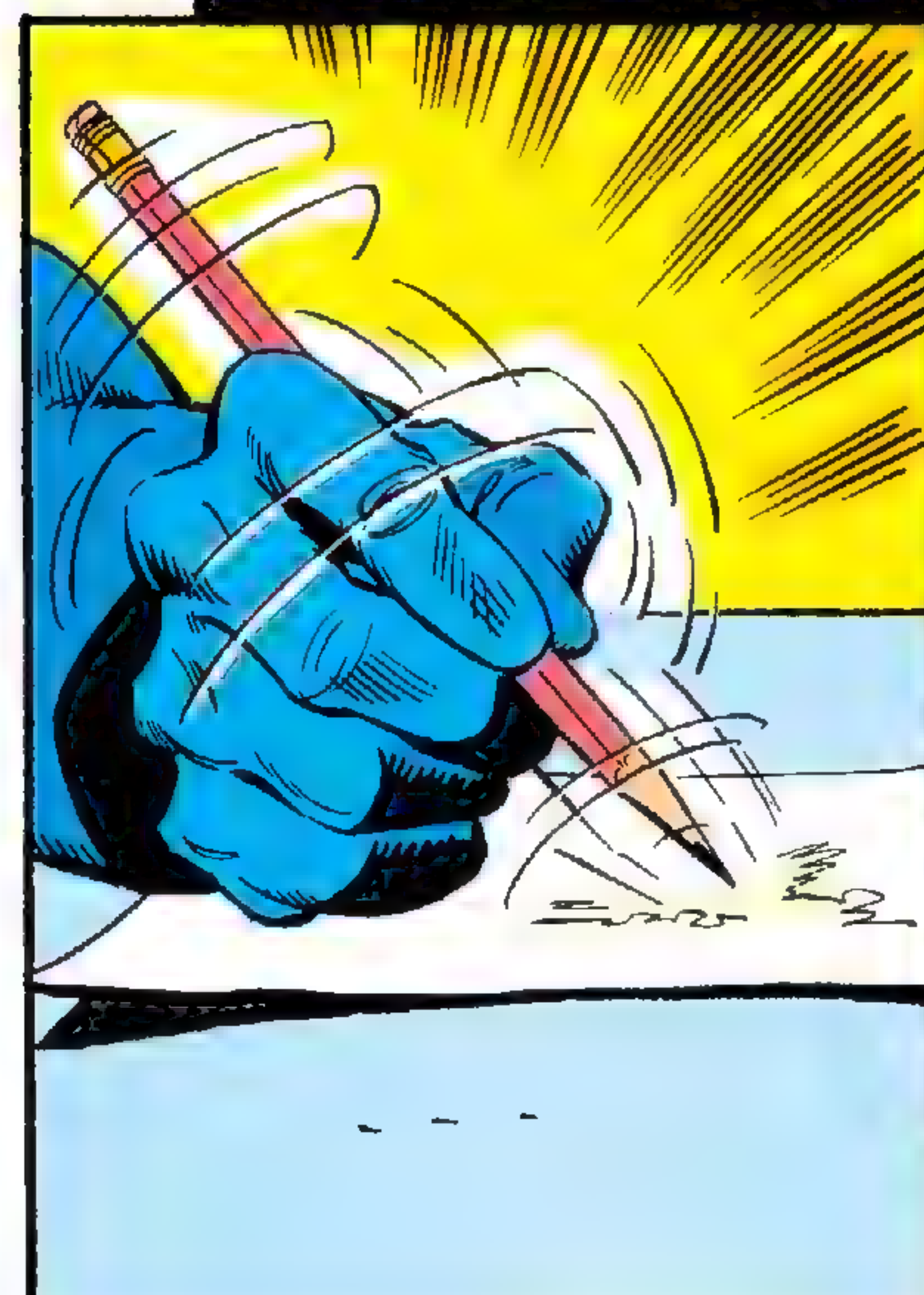
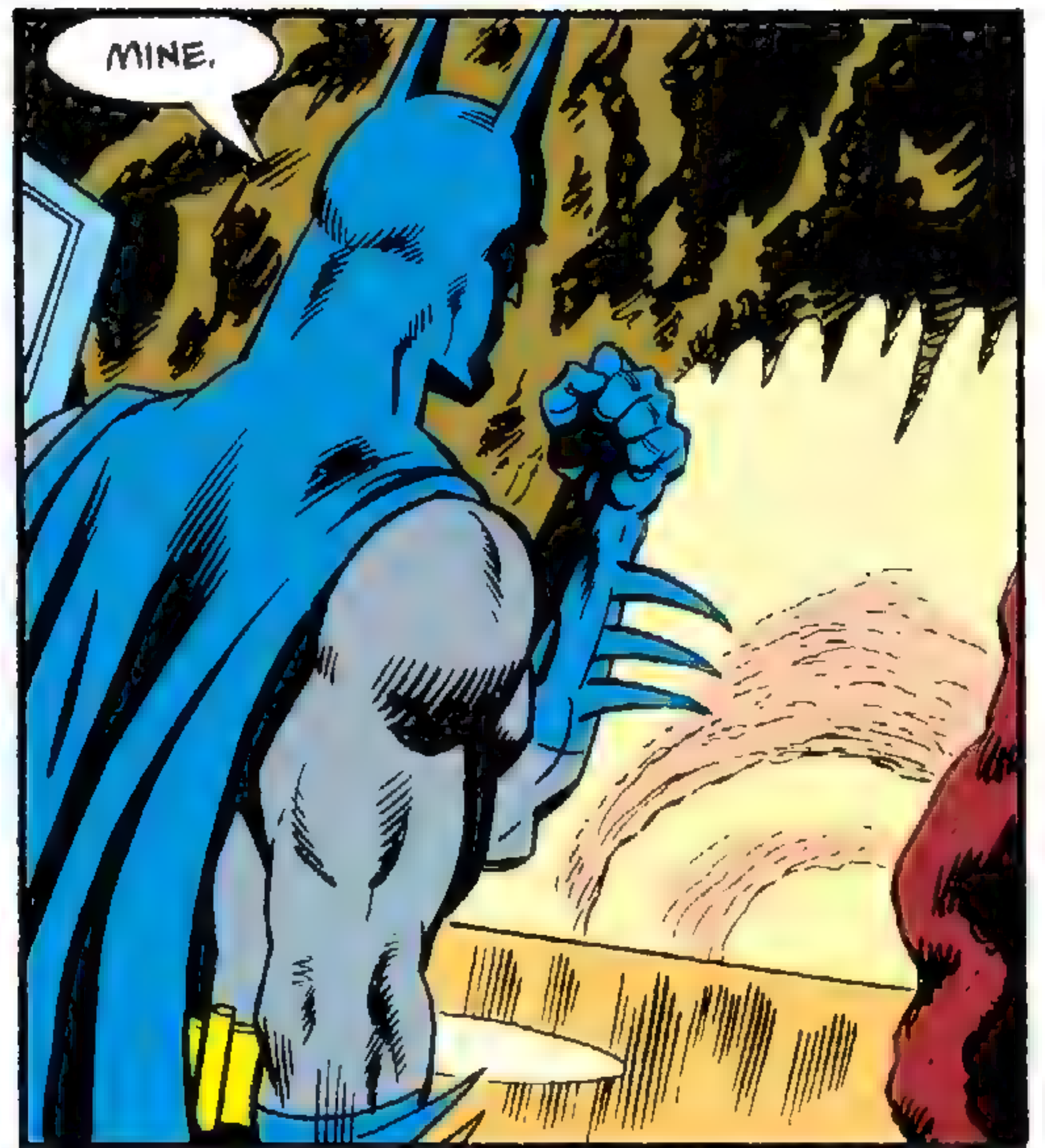
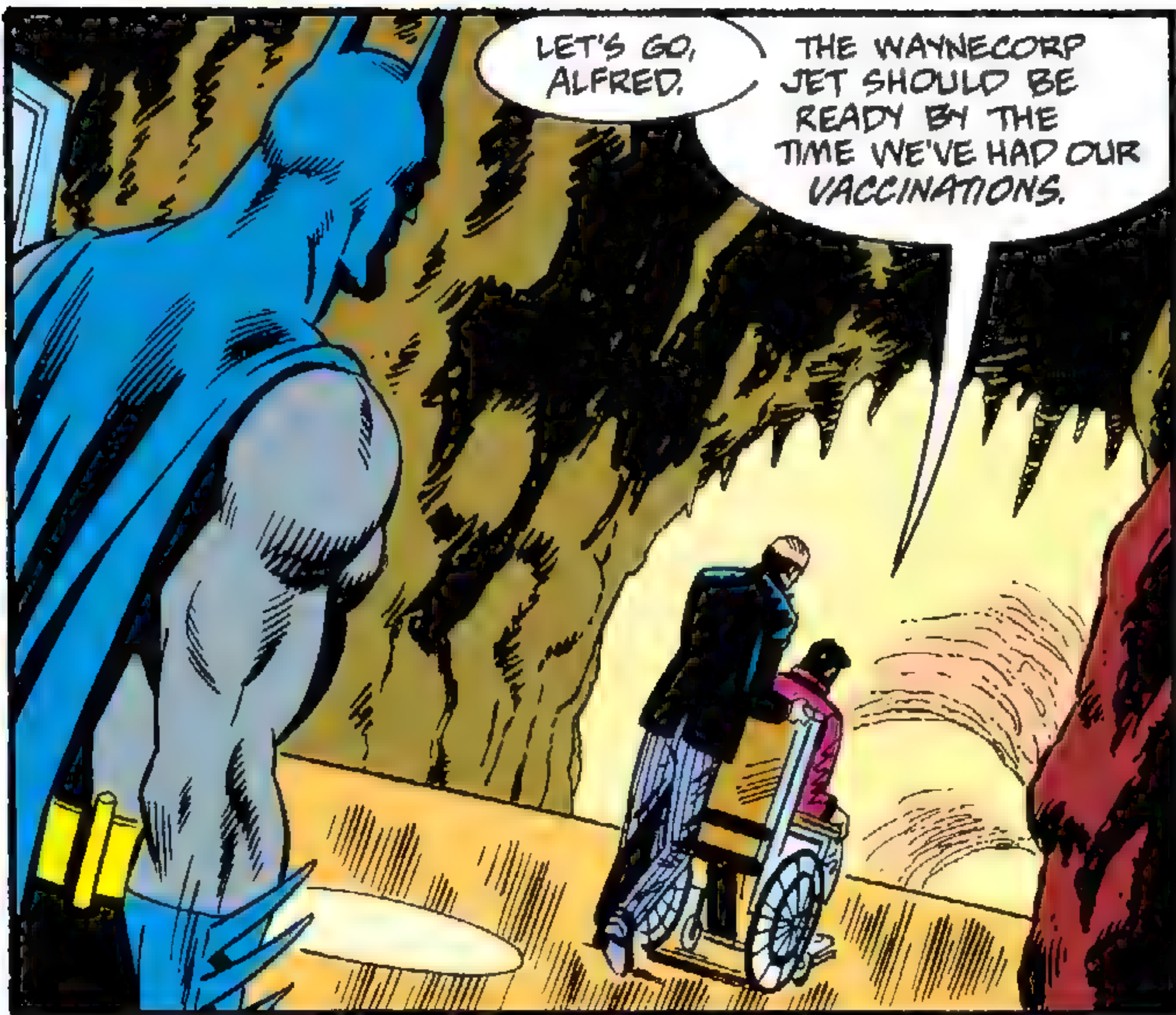


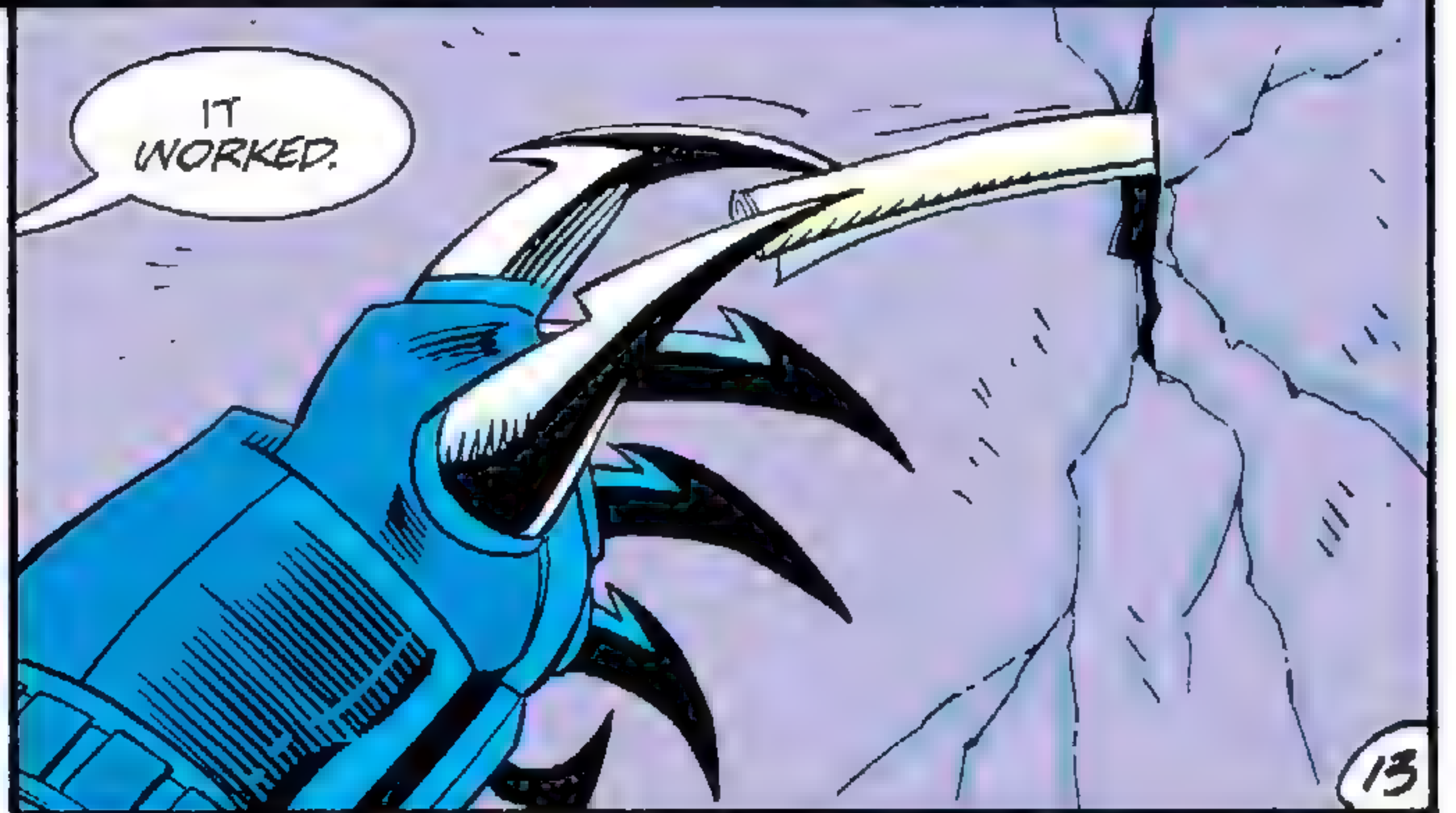
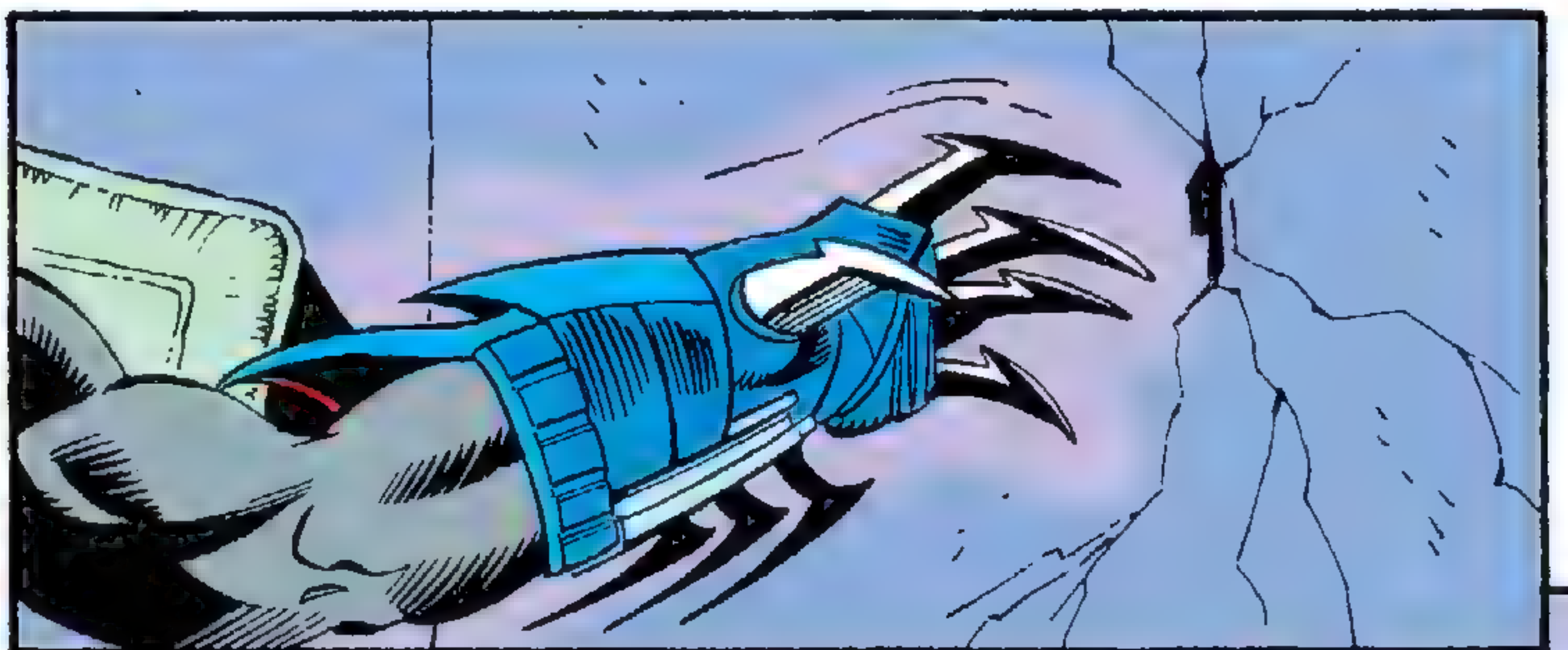
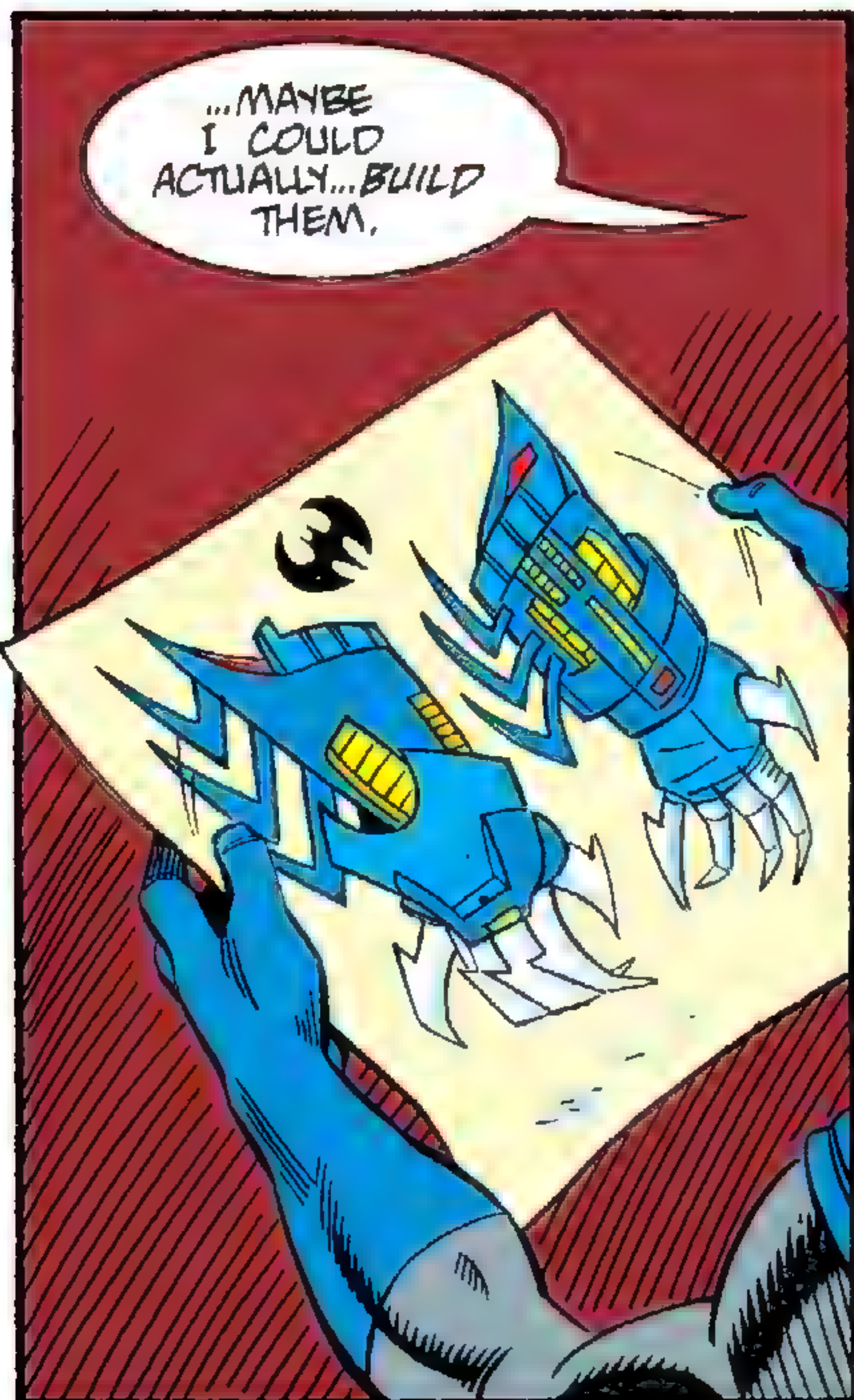
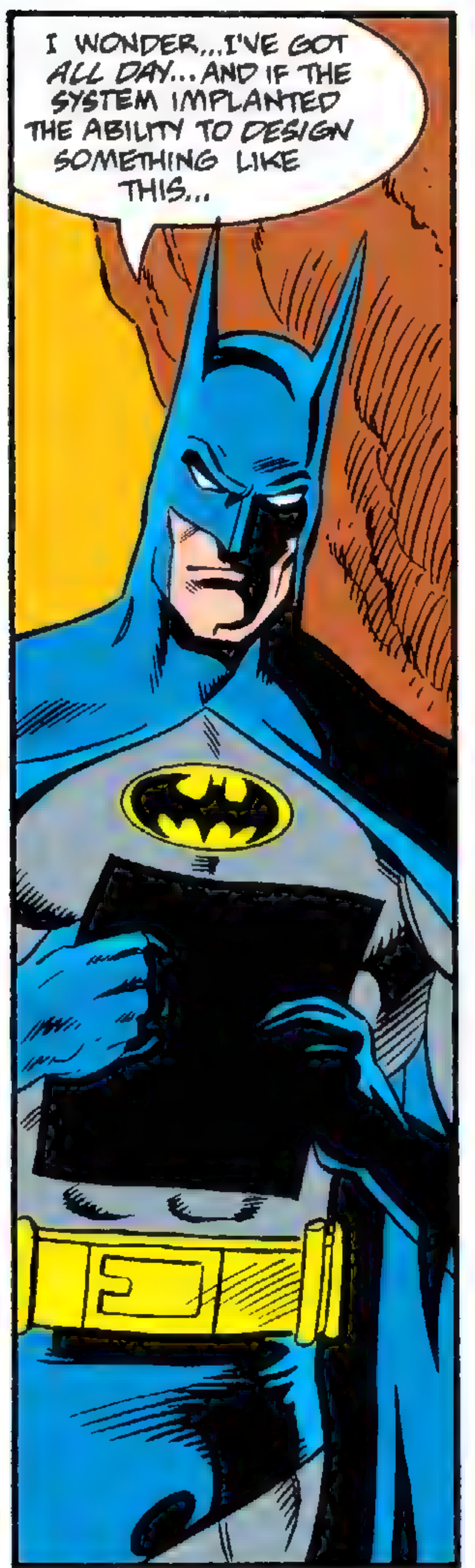
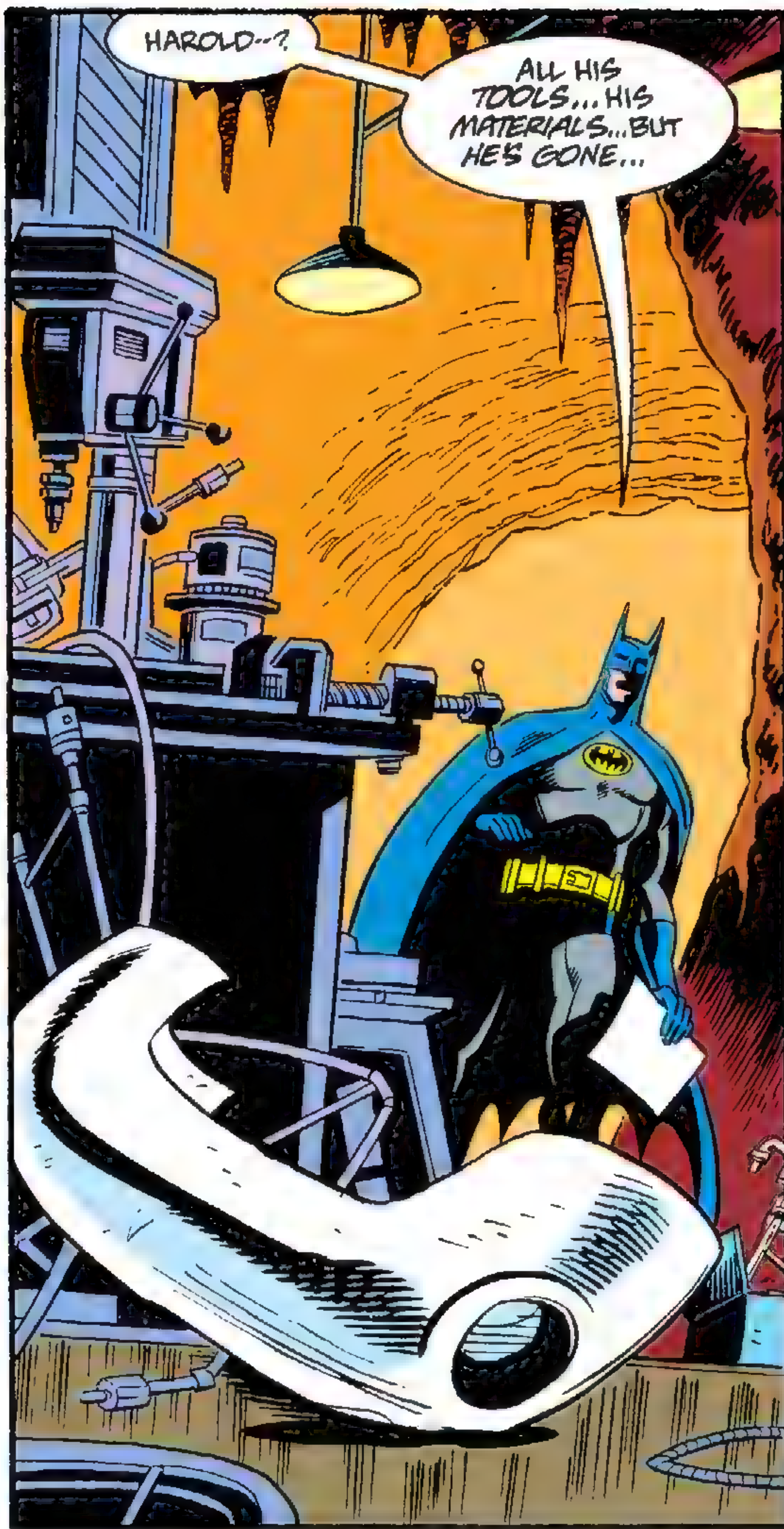
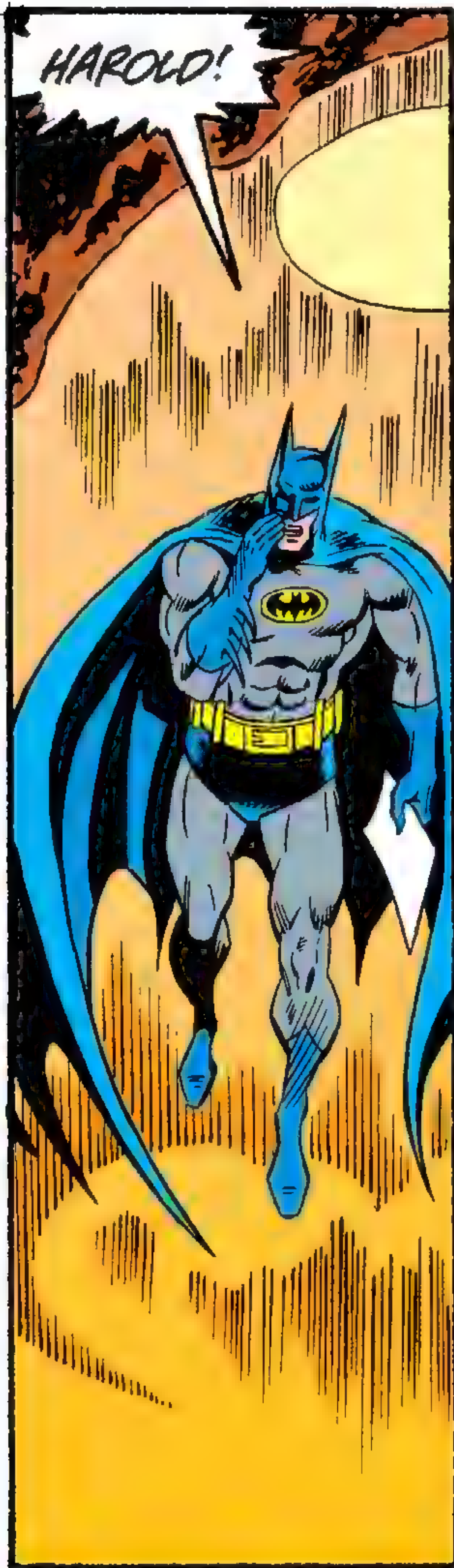
TOMORROW NIGHT COULD BE WICKED.

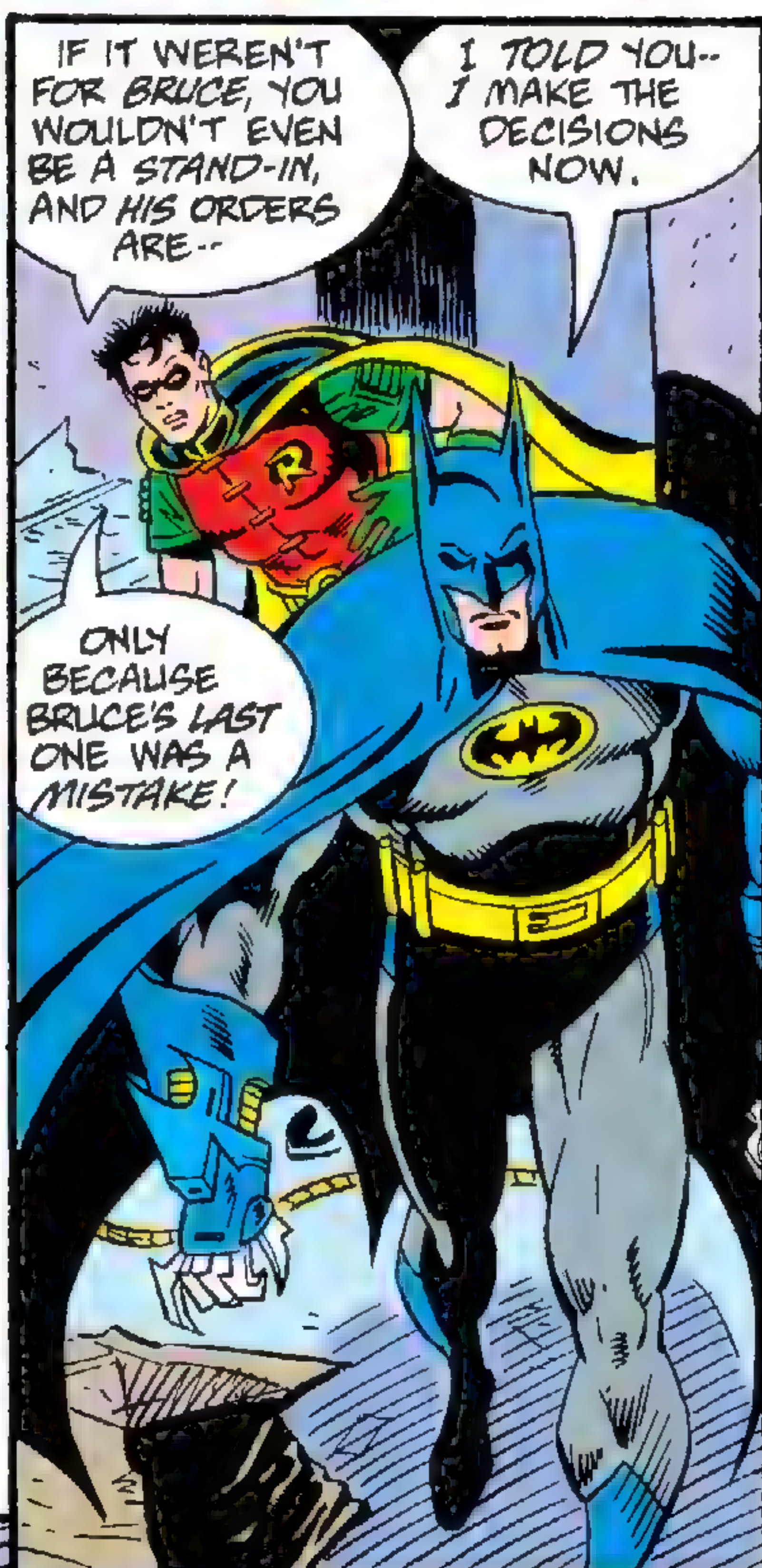
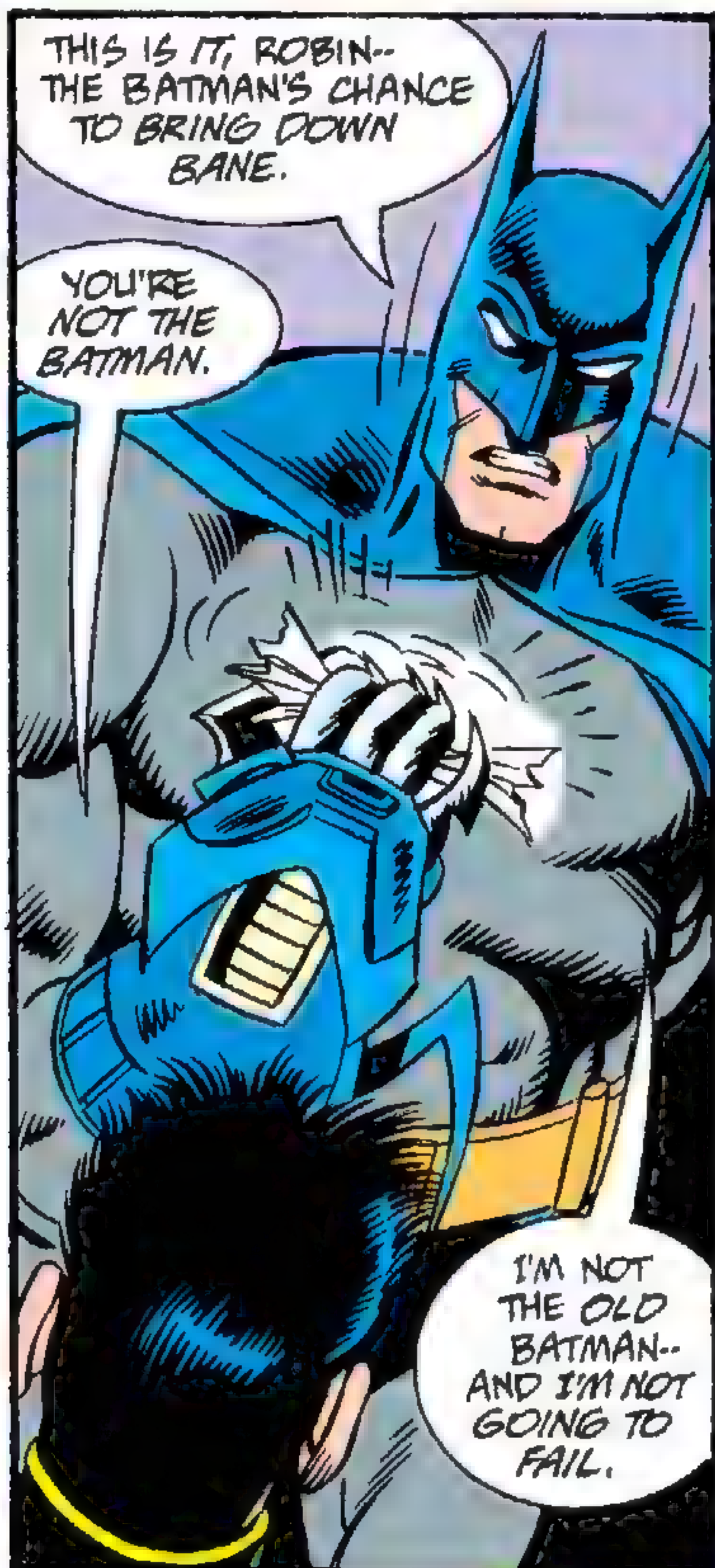
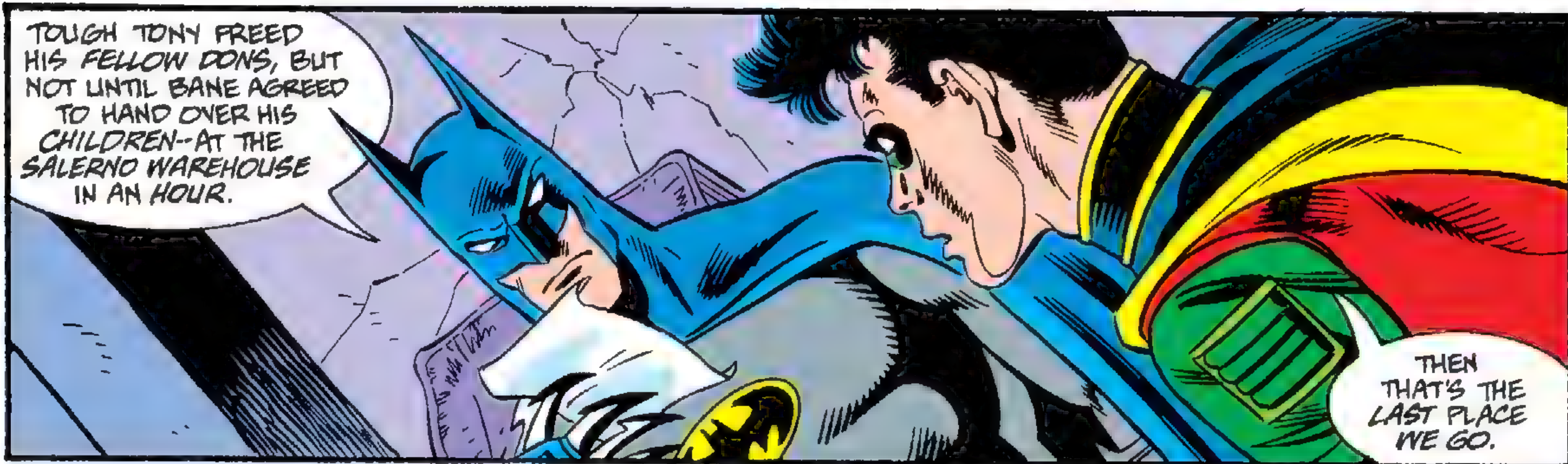


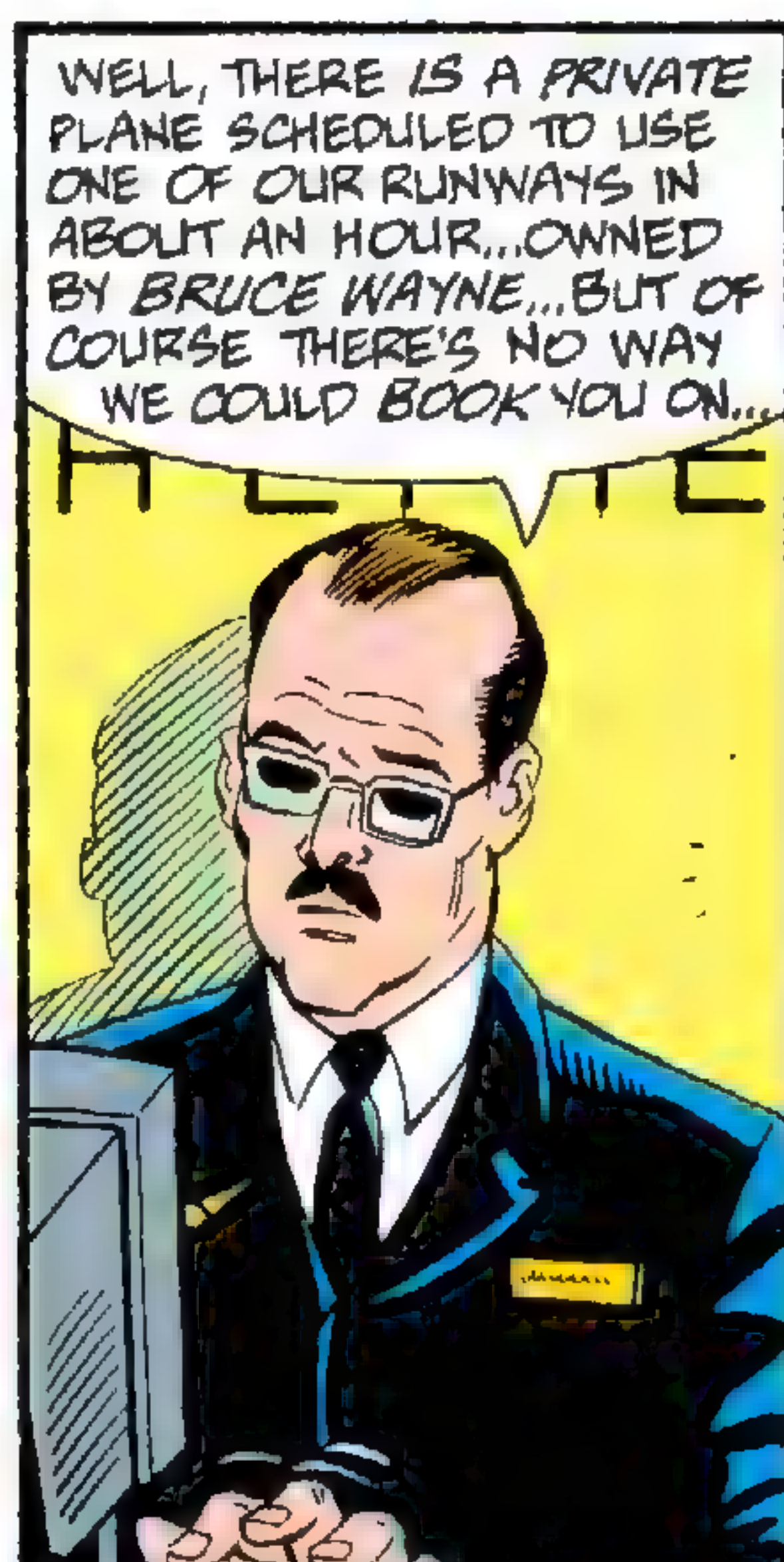
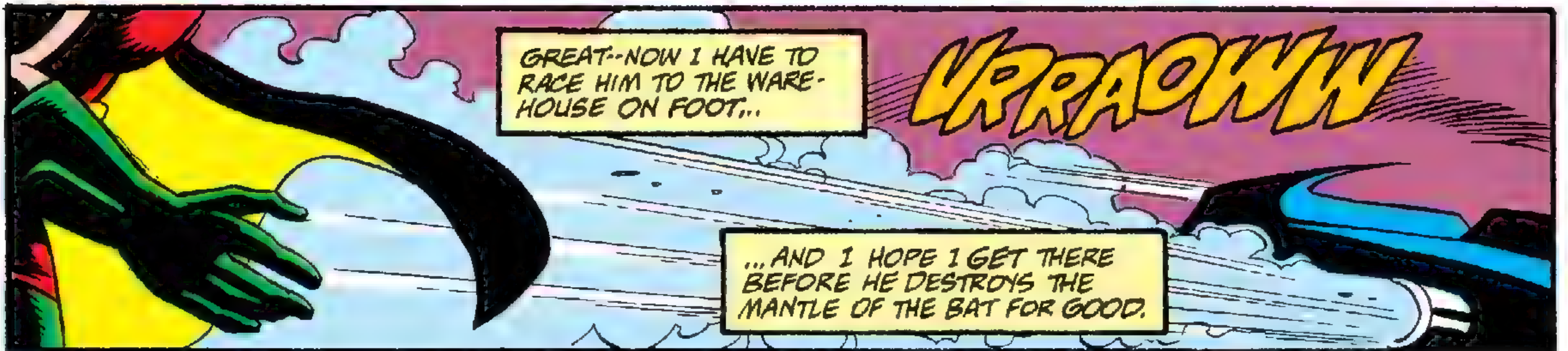


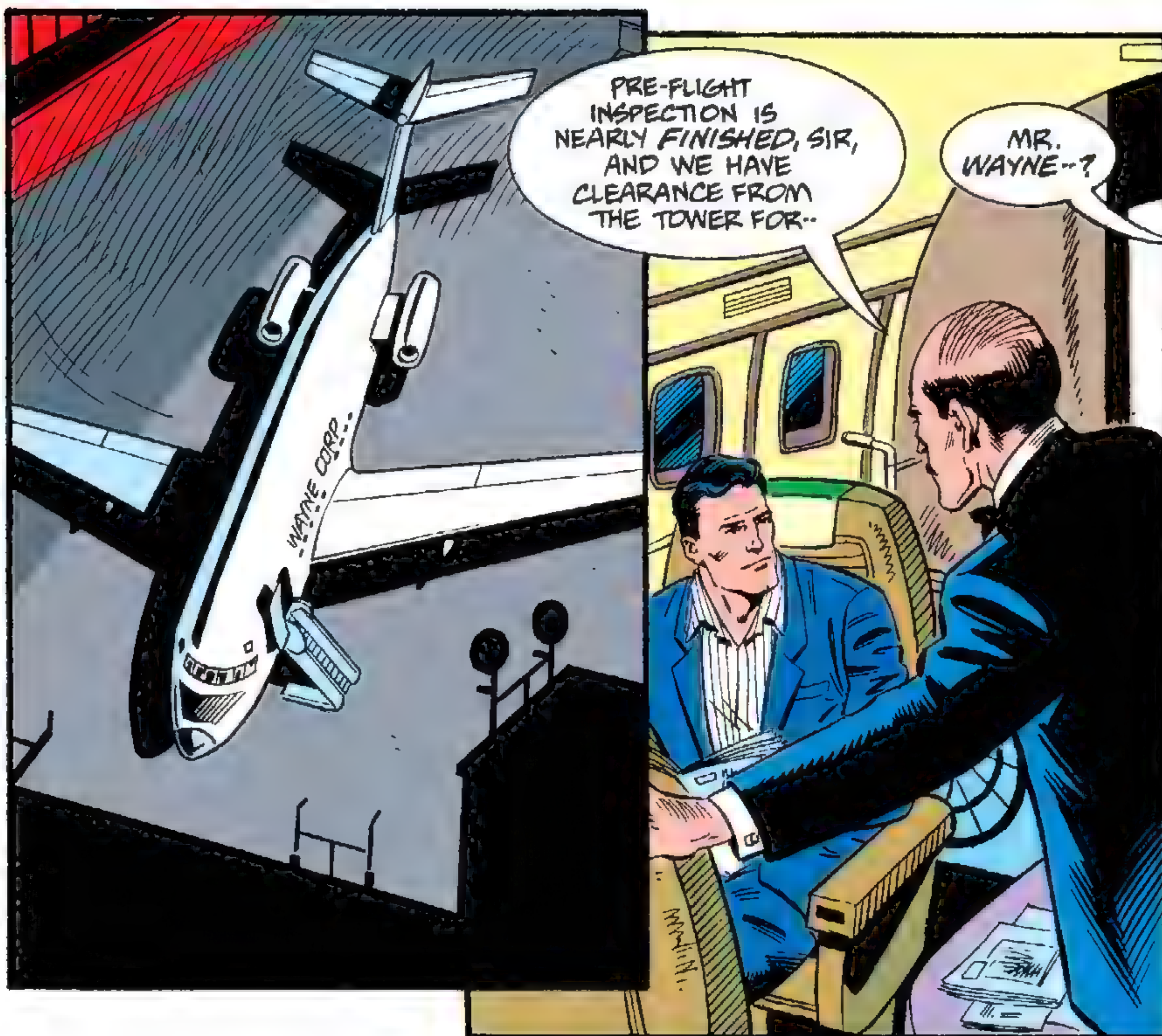












PRE-FLIGHT INSPECTION IS NEARLY FINISHED, SIR, AND WE HAVE CLEARANCE FROM THE TOWER FOR--

MR. WAYNE--?



GOOD LORD, WHO ARE YOU AND HOW DID YOU GET--

MY NAME IS SELINA KYLE, MR. WAYNE--WE MET AT A CHARITY FUNCTION, AND I DESPERATELY NEED TO REACH SANTA PRISCA IMMED--



I'M SORRY, MS. KYLE, BUT THIS IS A PRIVATE PLANE AND NOT LICENSED TO CARRY PASSENGERS, SO IF YOU'LL JUST--

PLEASE, MR. WAYNE, I CAN MAKE IT WORTH YOUR--



I'M AFRAID I REALLY MUST INSIST, MADAM.

ON THIS PLANE, MONEY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.

I WASN'T NECESSARILY REFERRING TO MONEY, MR. WAYNE.



I BELIEVE WE'RE READY TO DEPART, ALFRED.

IF YOU WOULD ESCORT MS. KYLE OFF THE PLANE...?

YES, SIR.

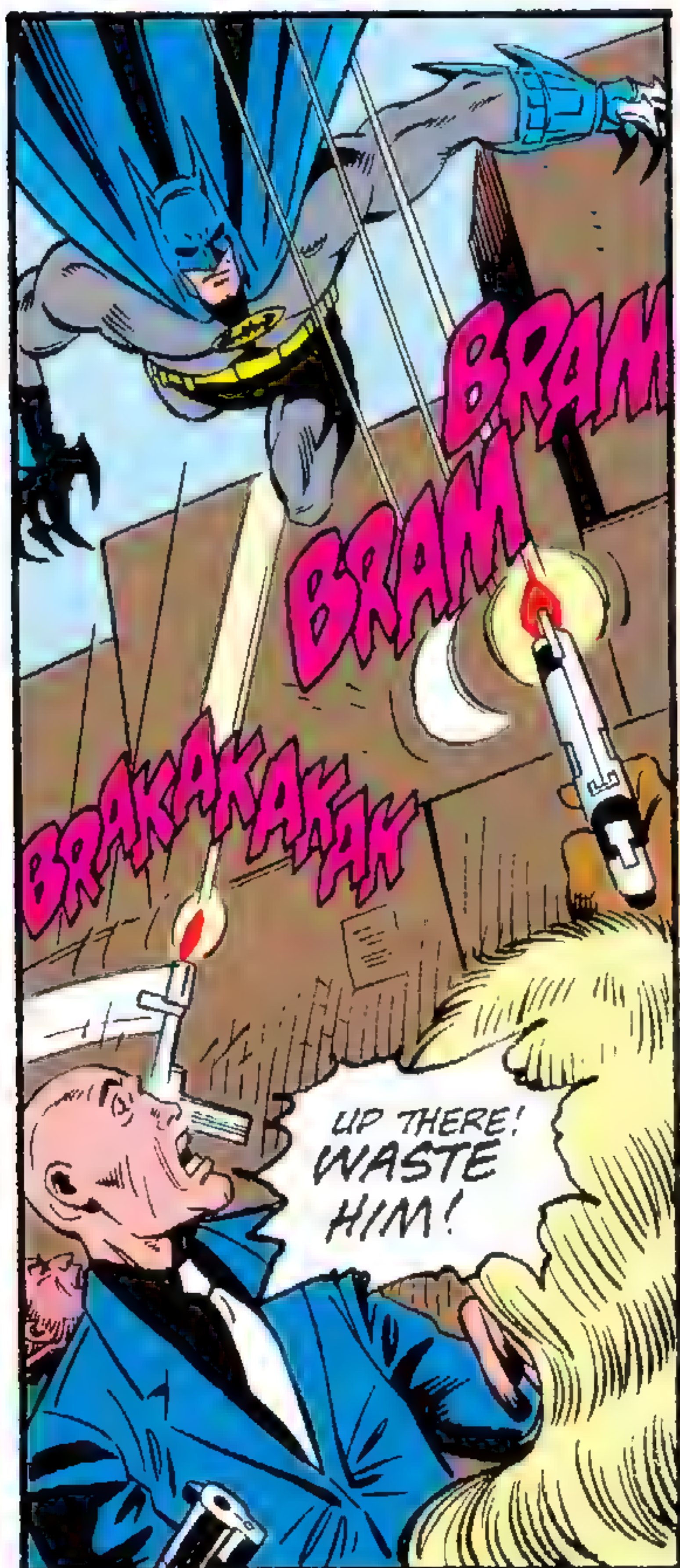
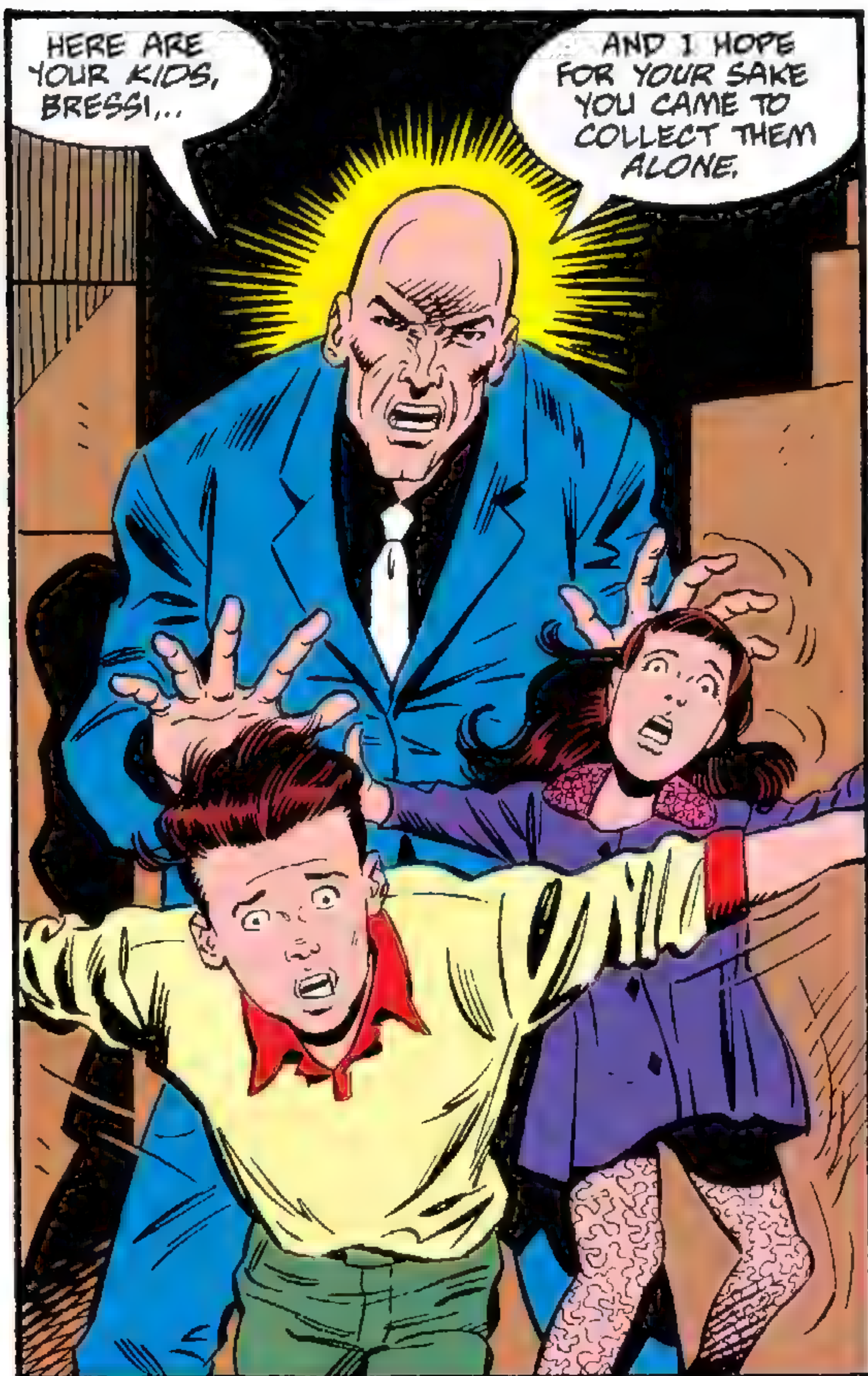


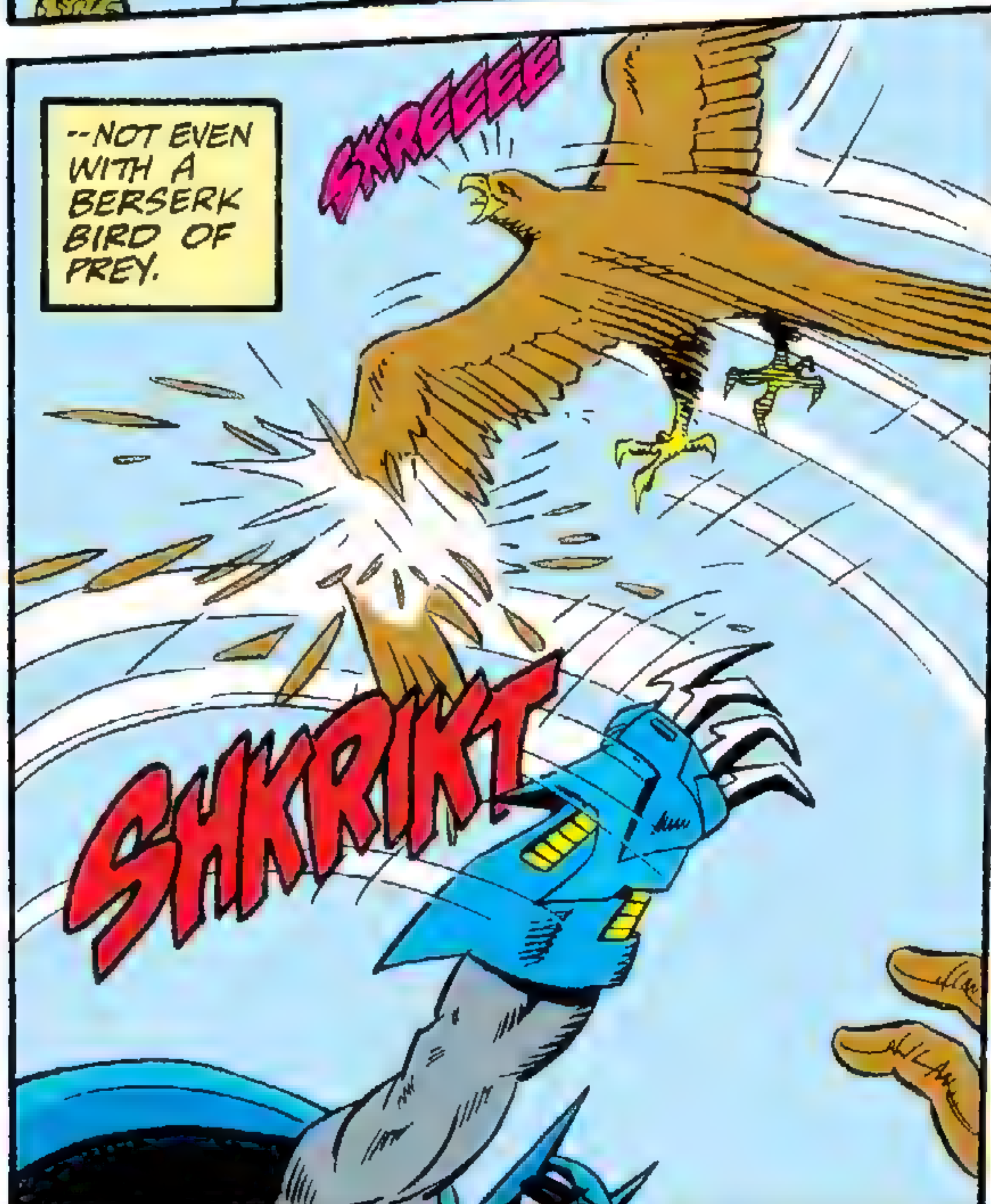
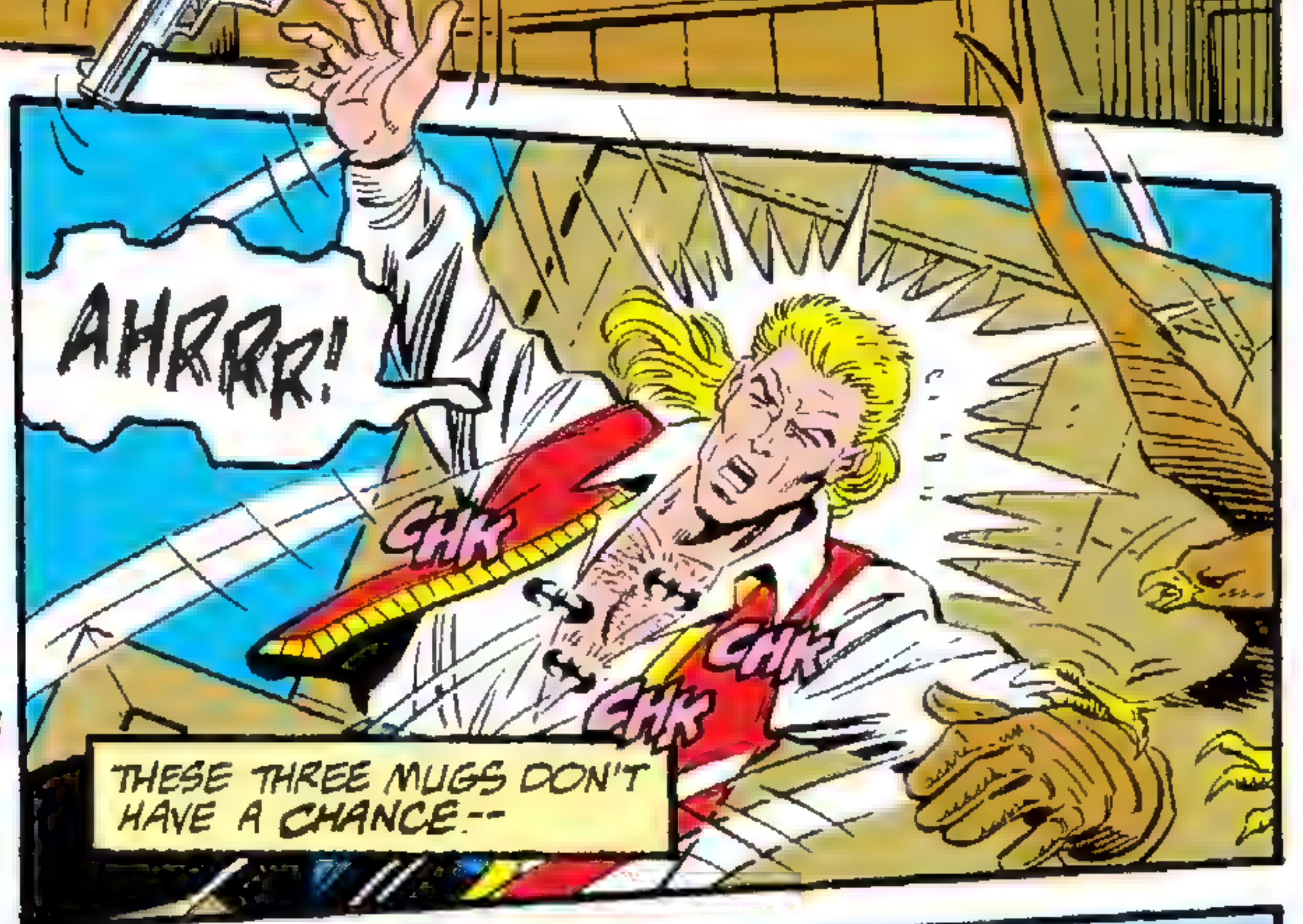
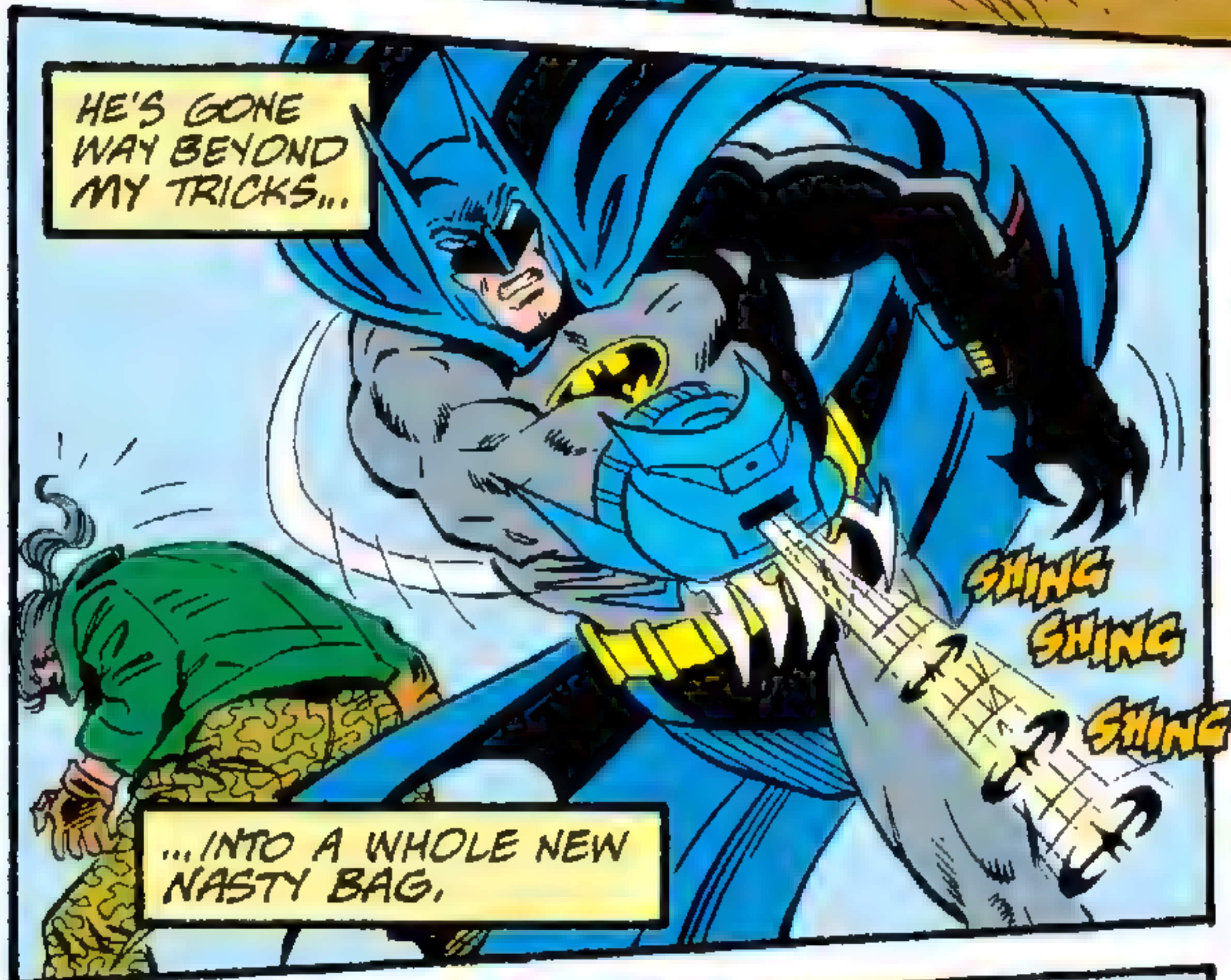
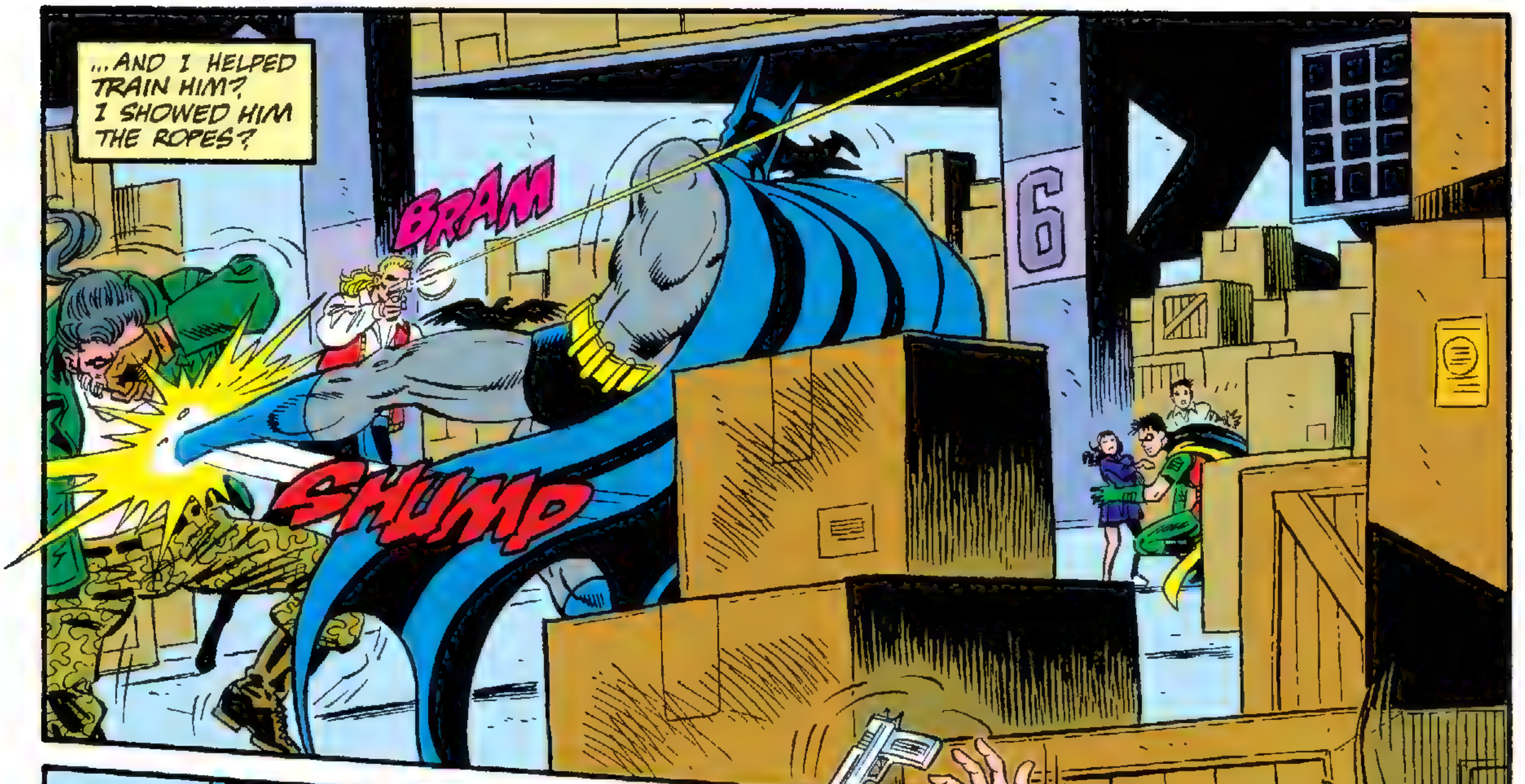
ALL LUCK IN SECURING OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS, MADAM.

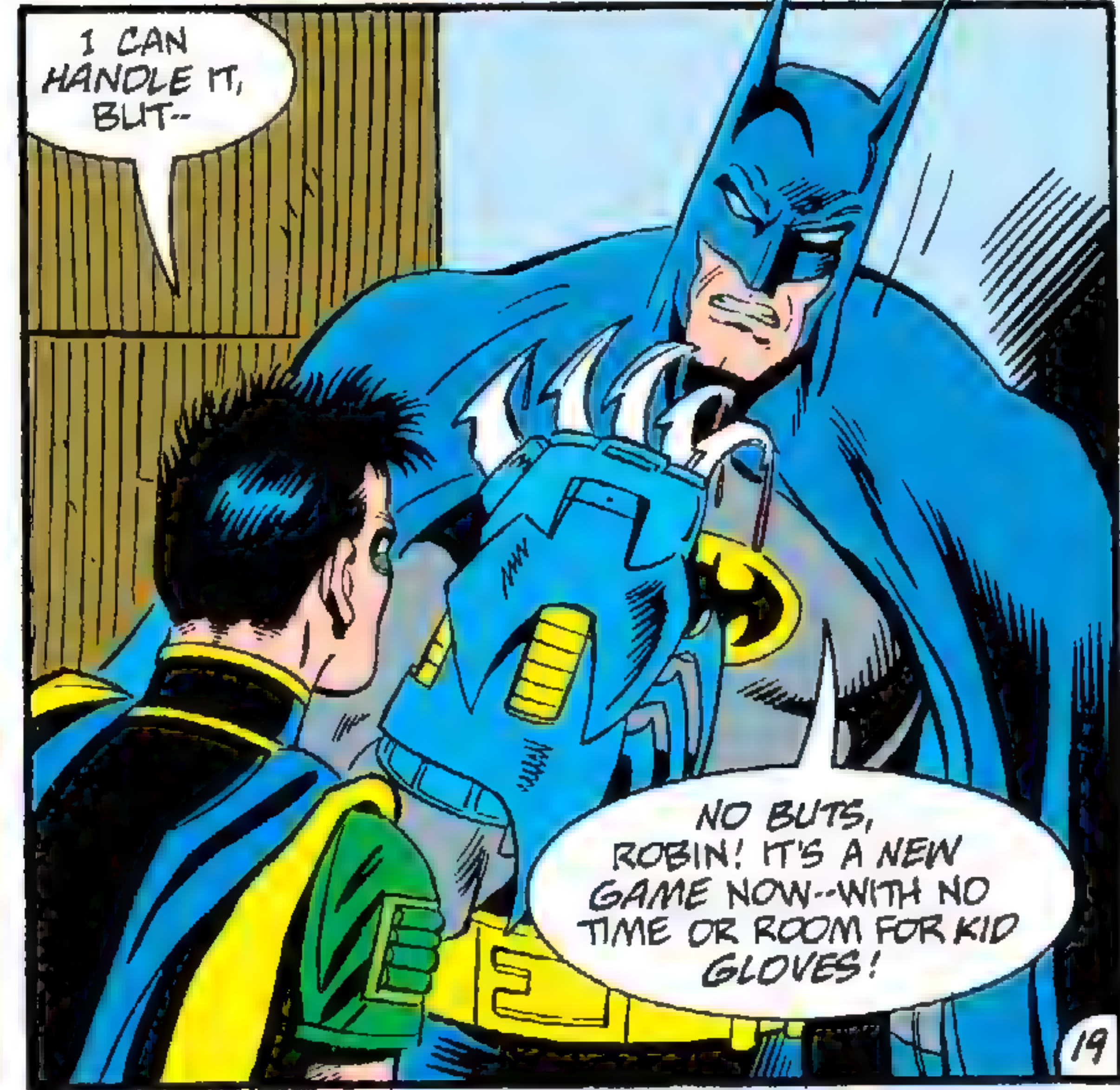
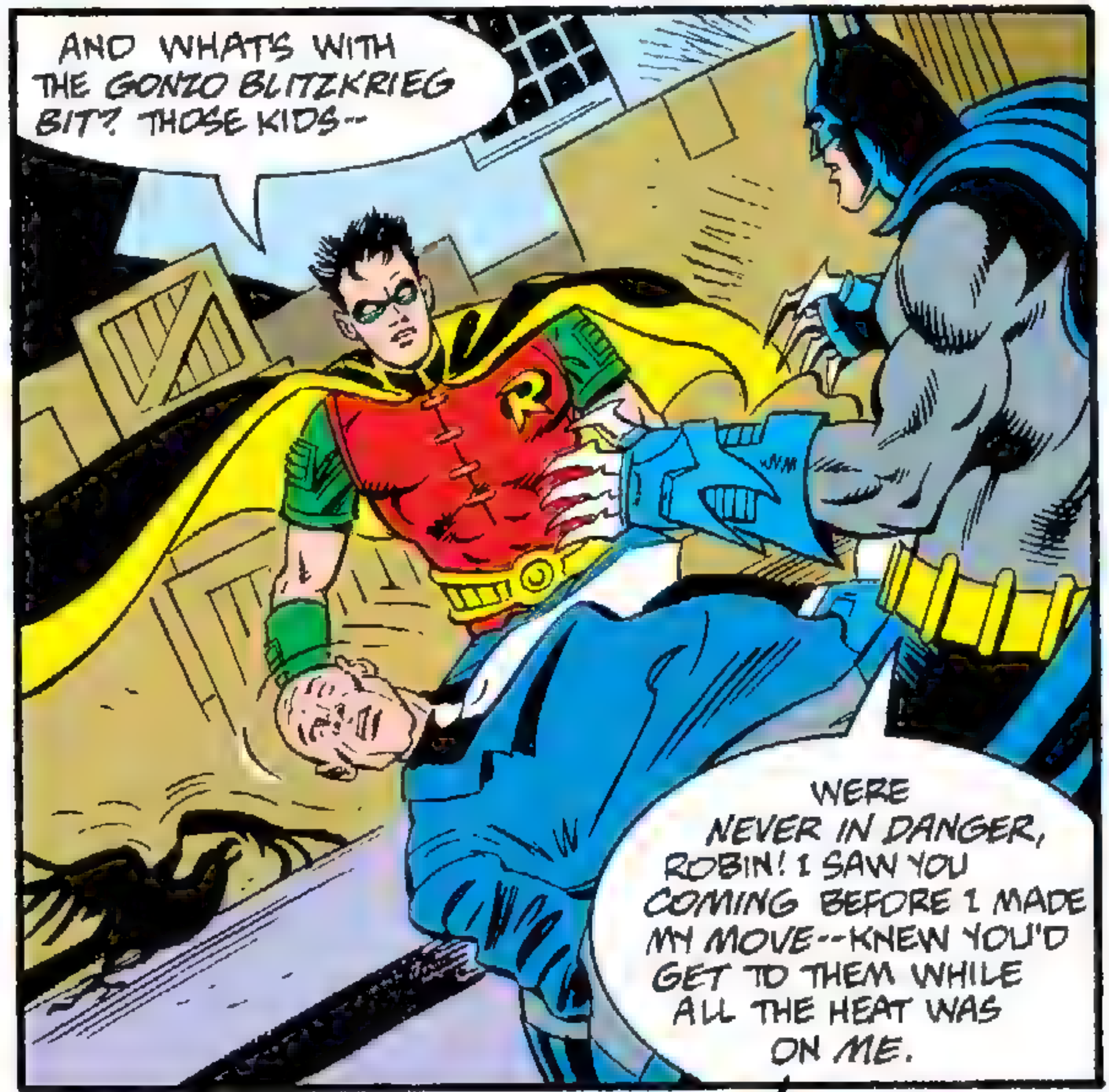
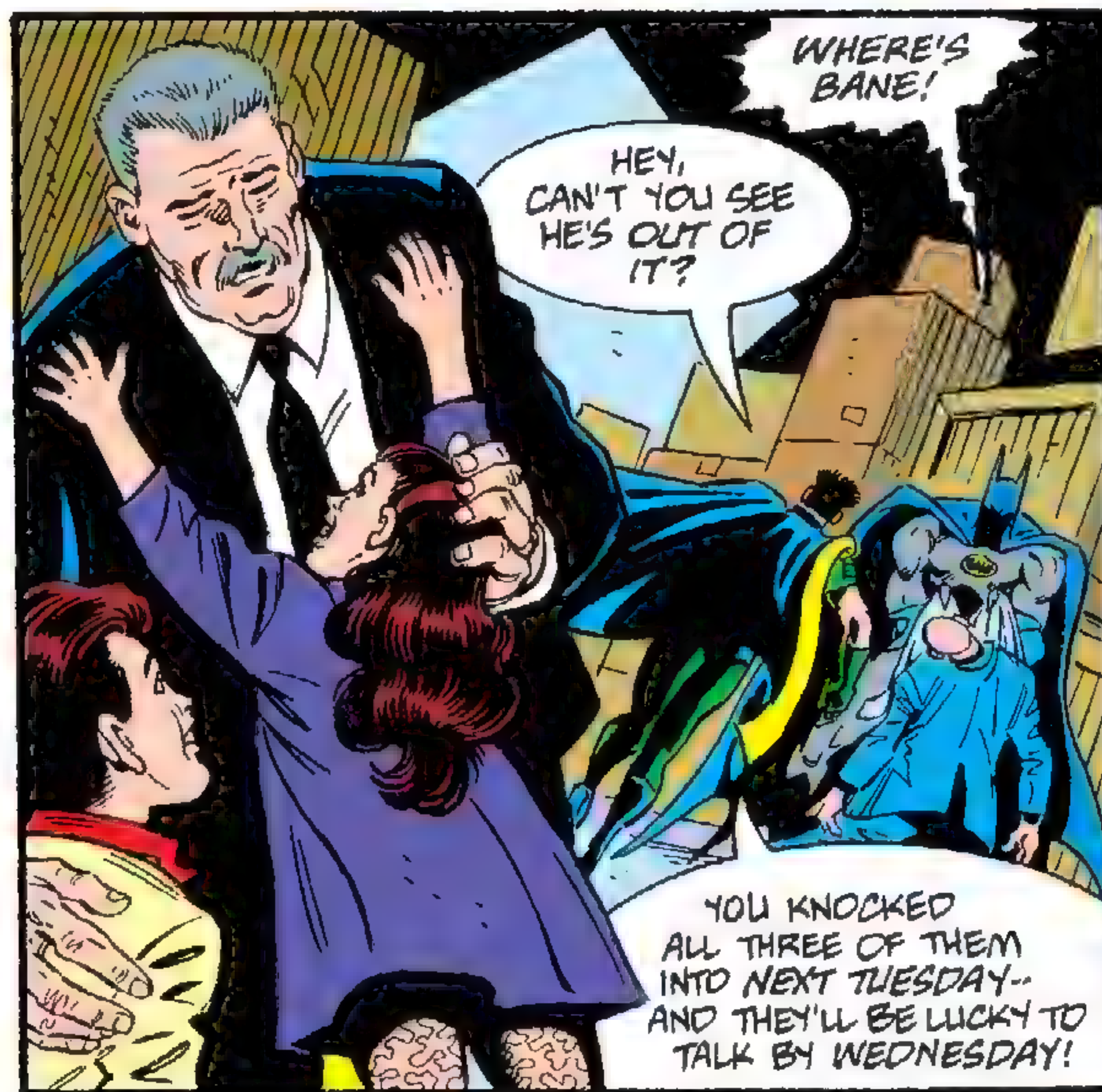
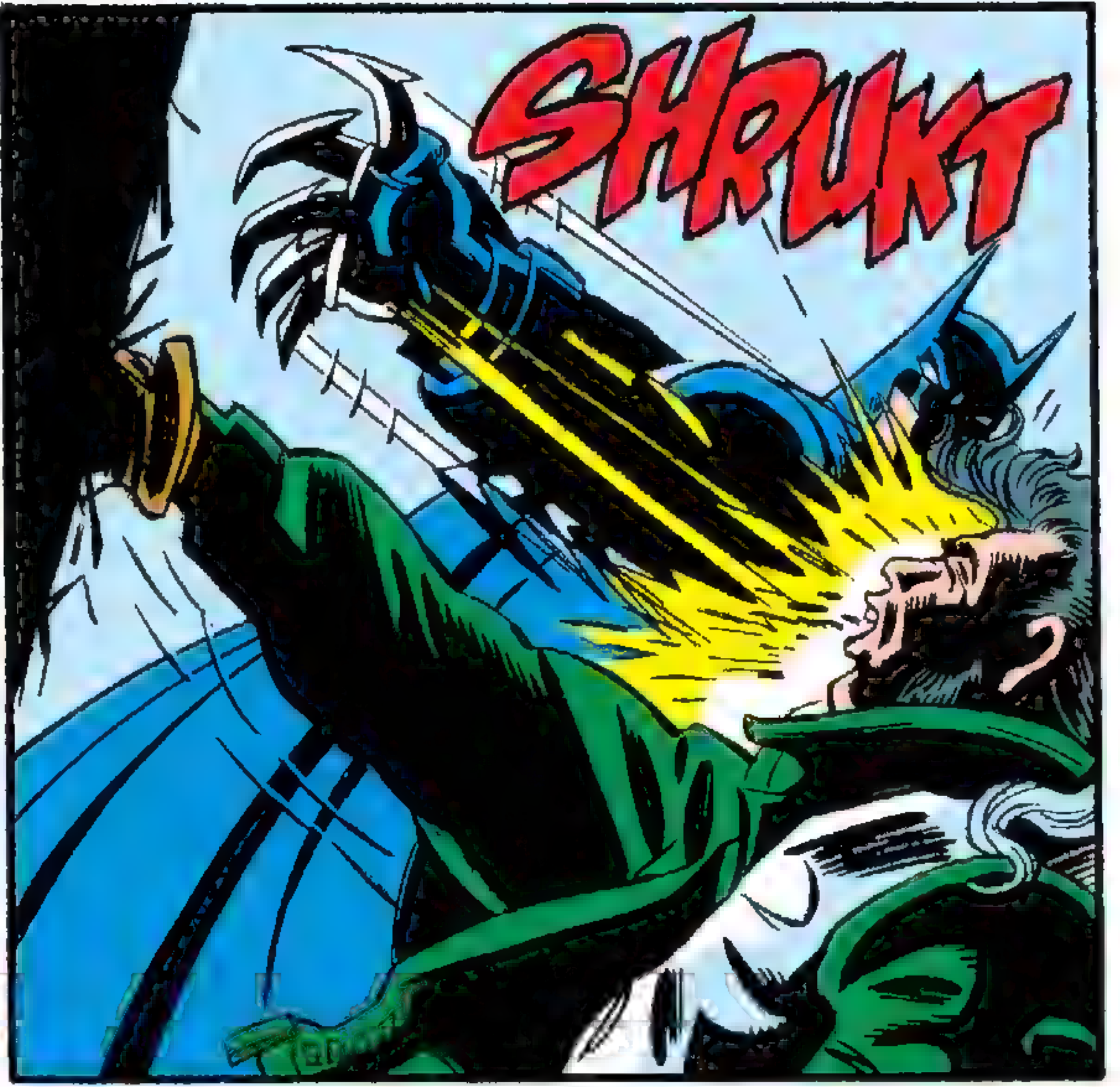
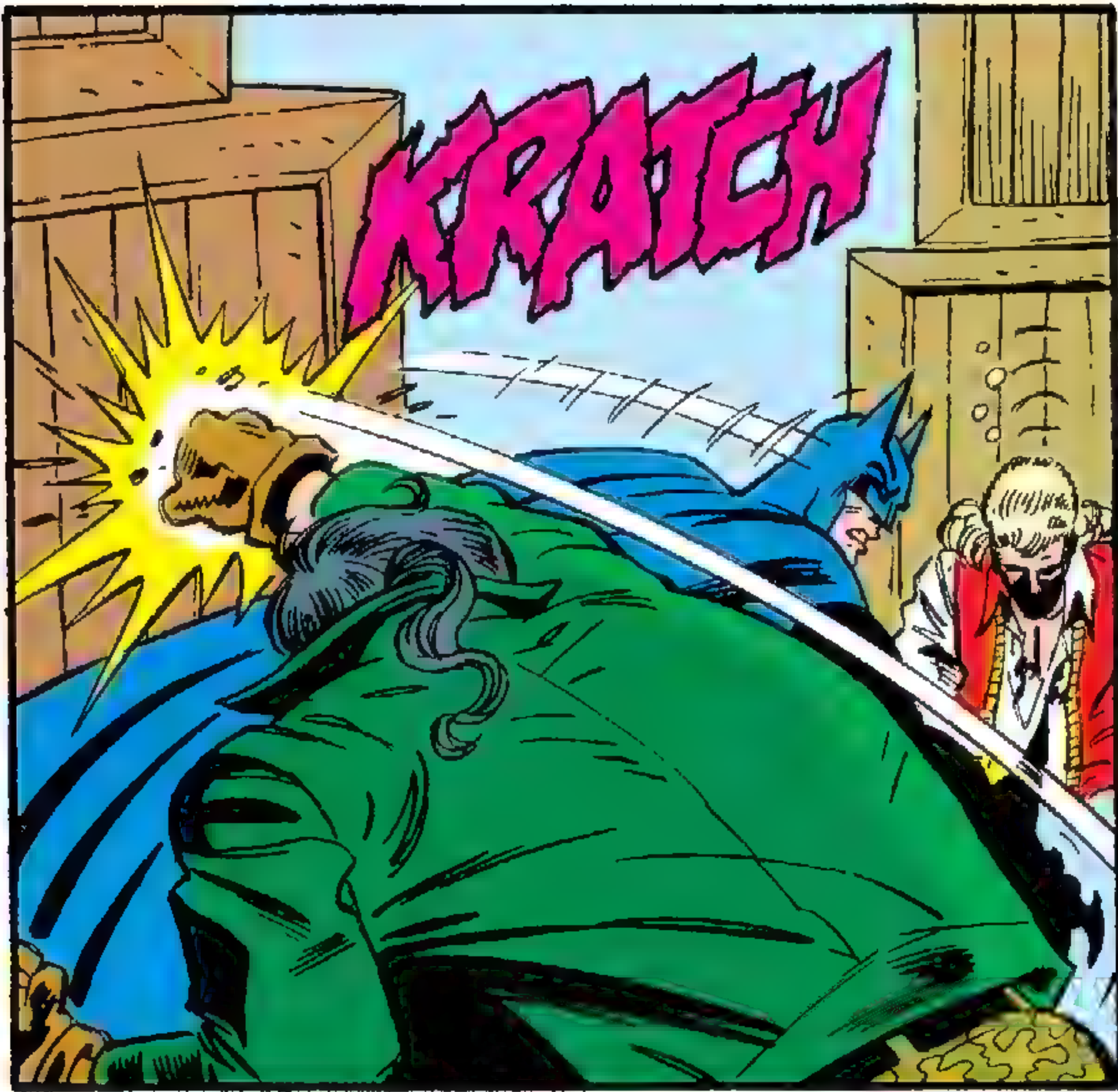
THANKS.

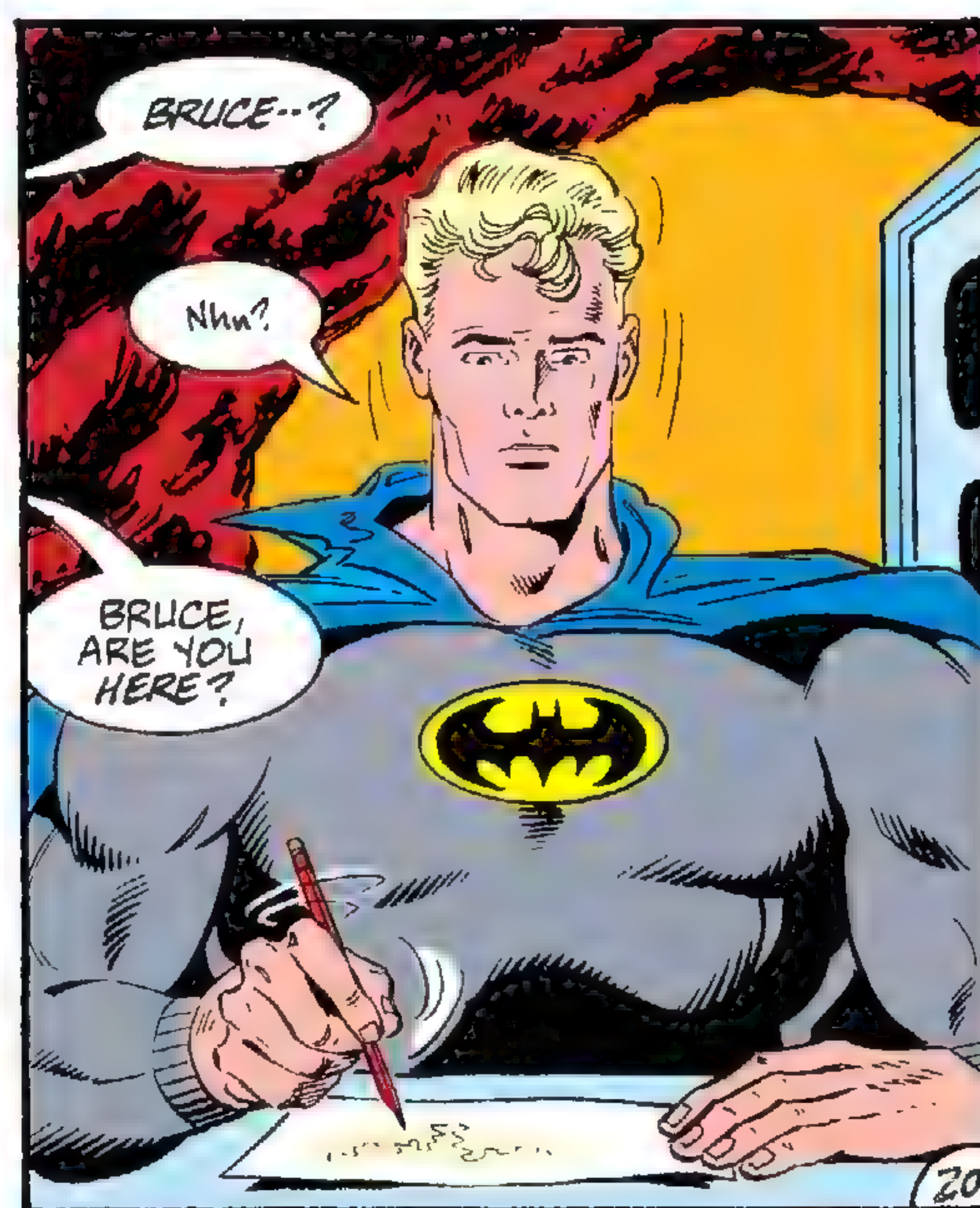
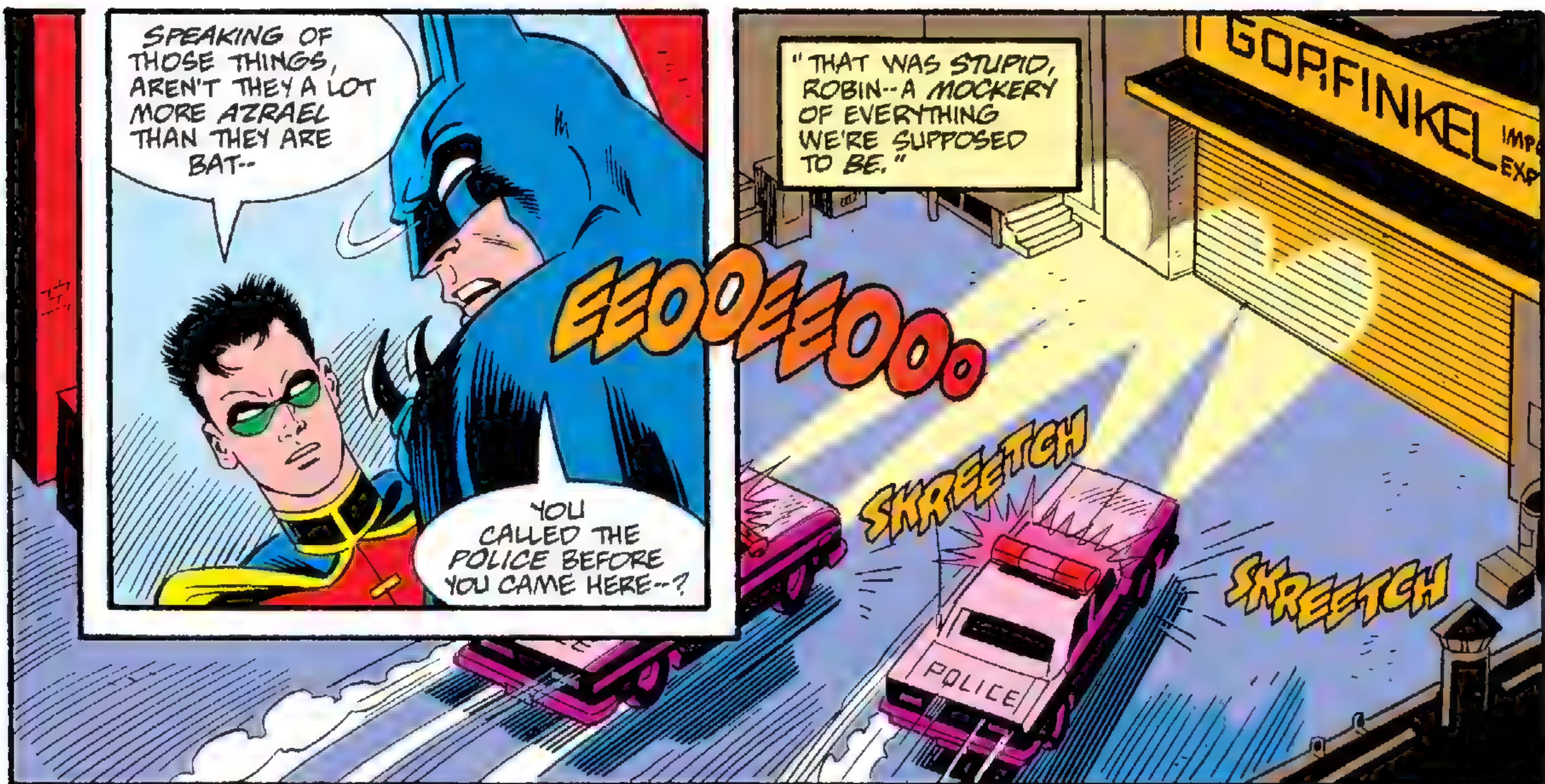


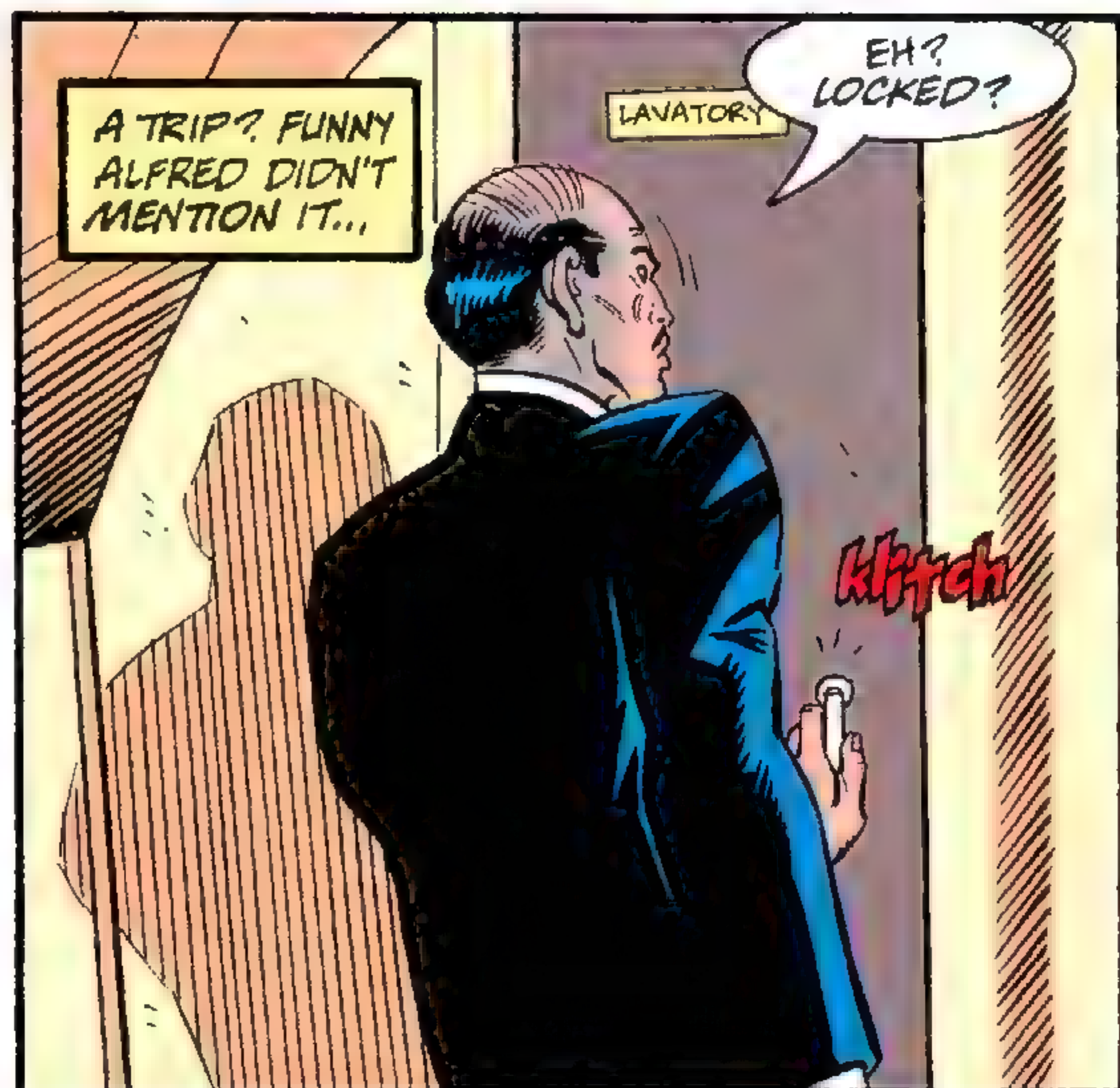
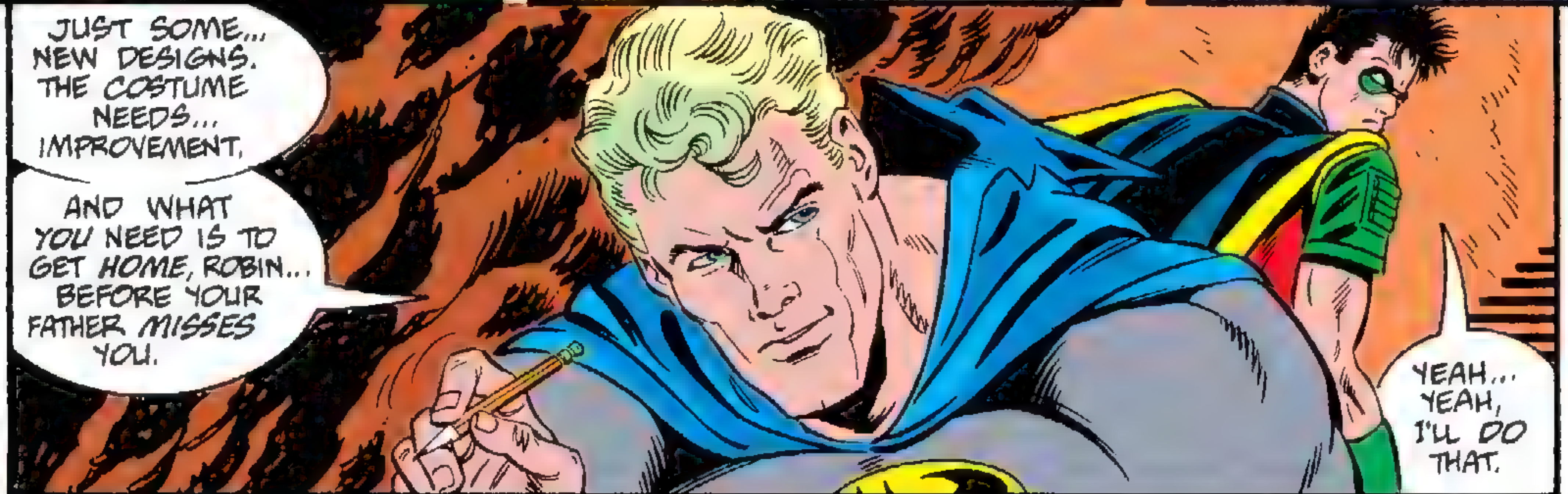
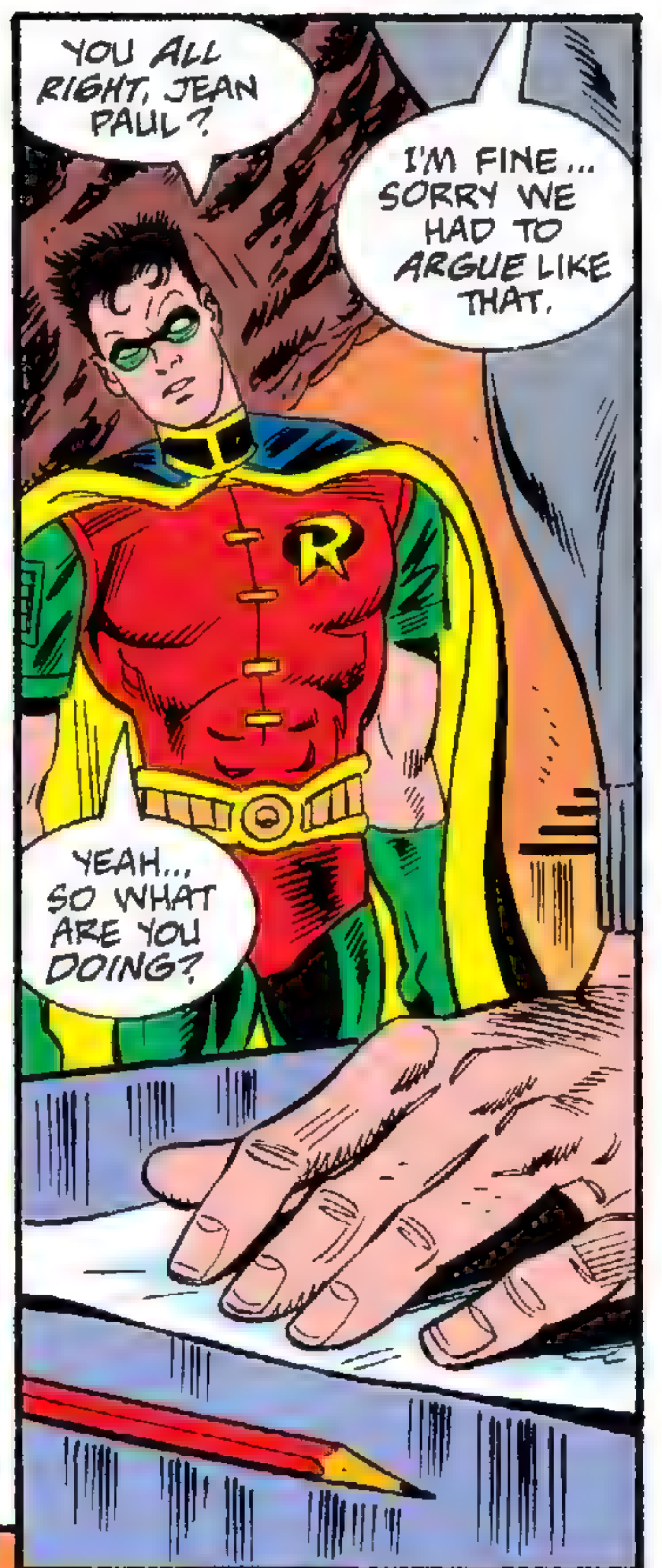
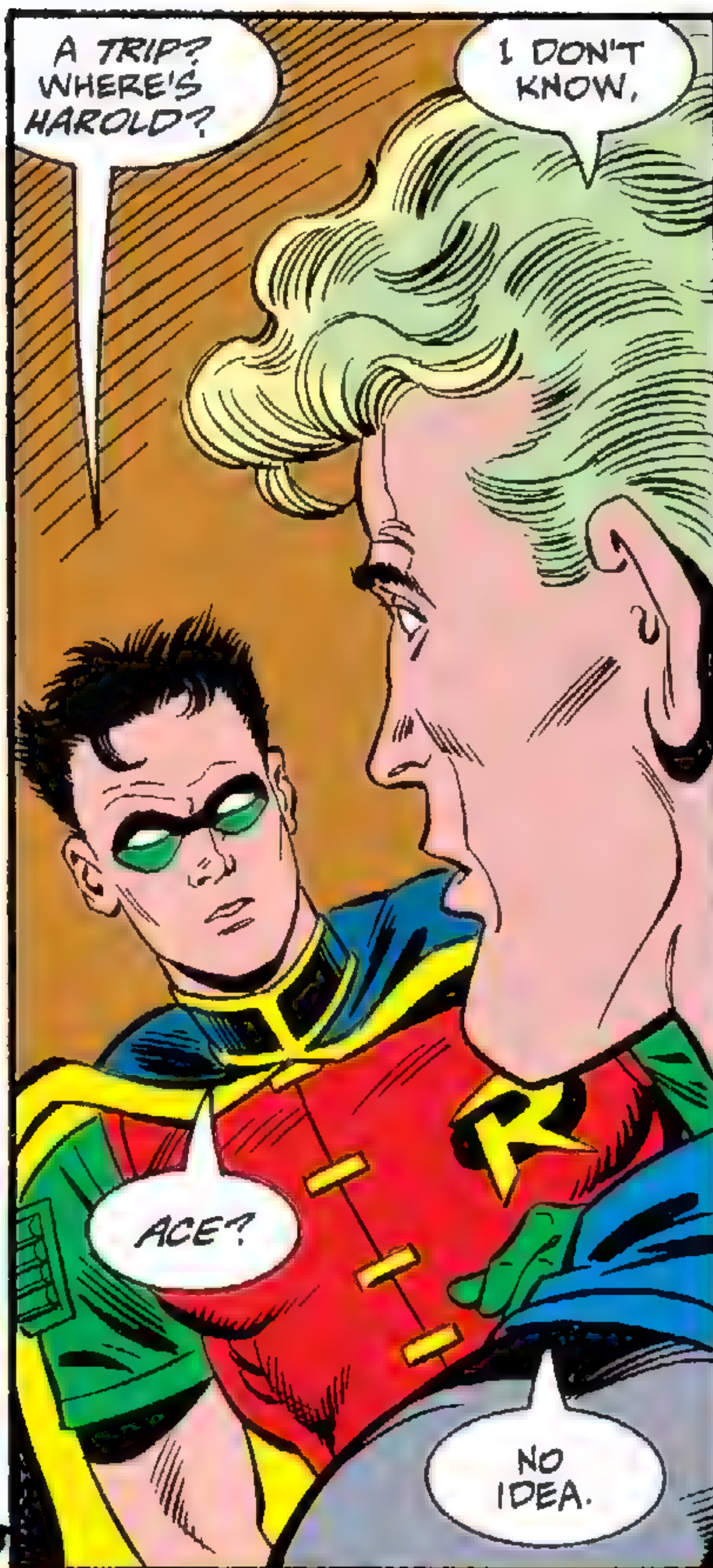
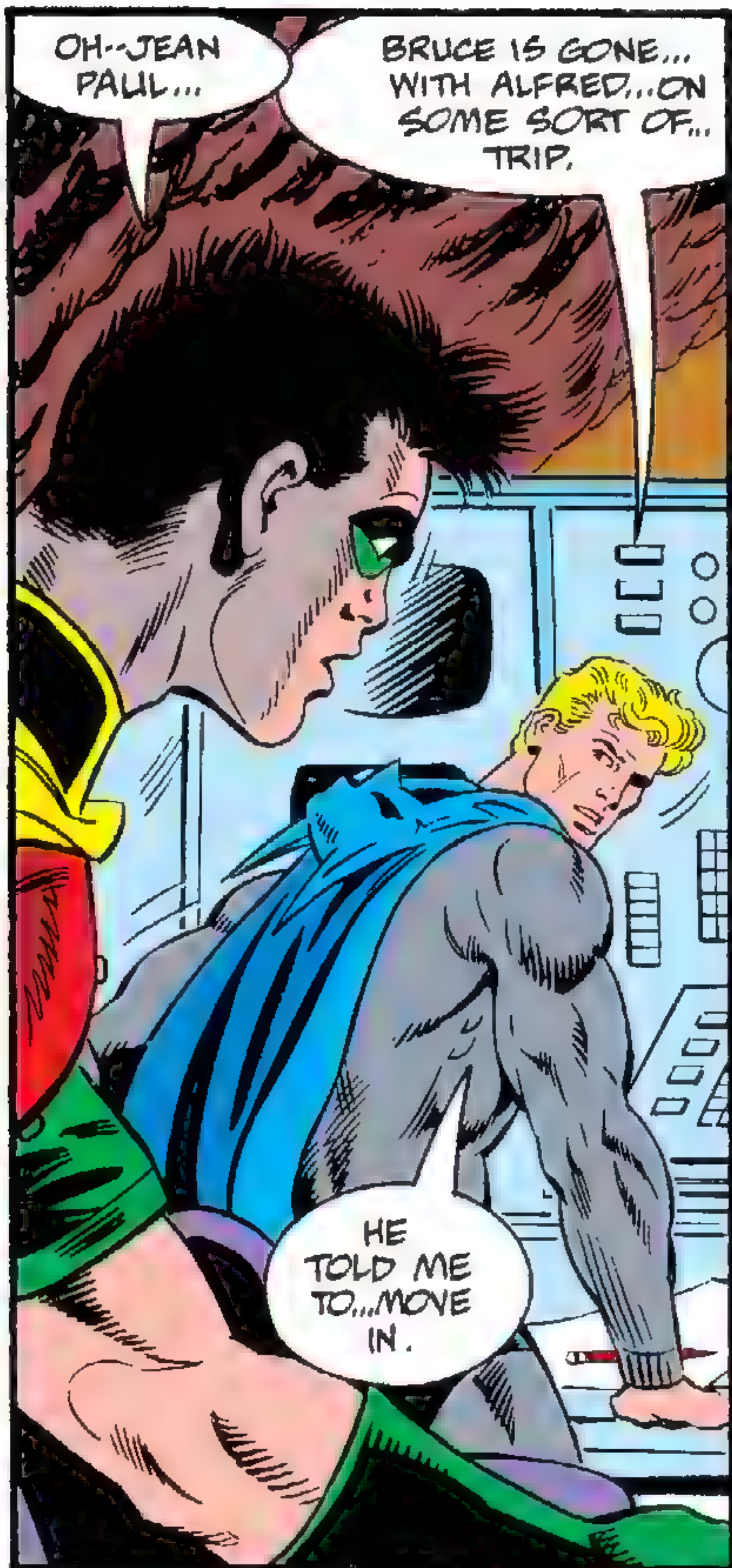
BUT I NEVER RELY ON LUCK.

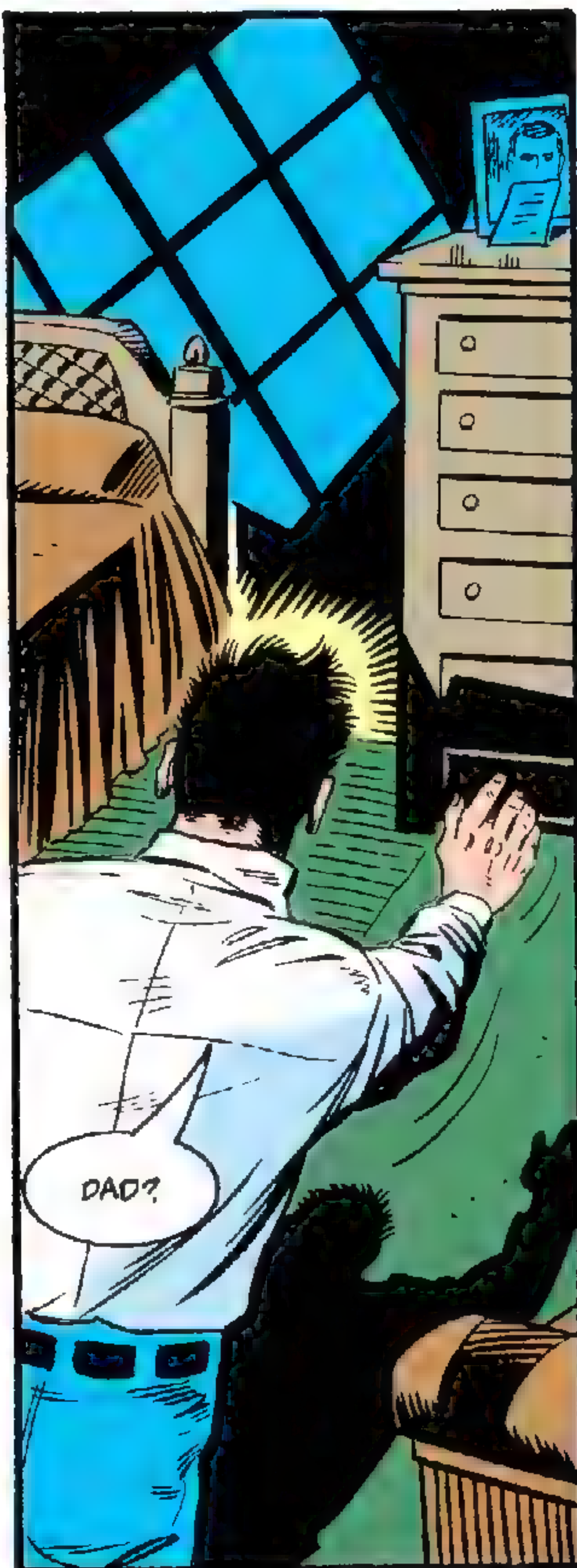






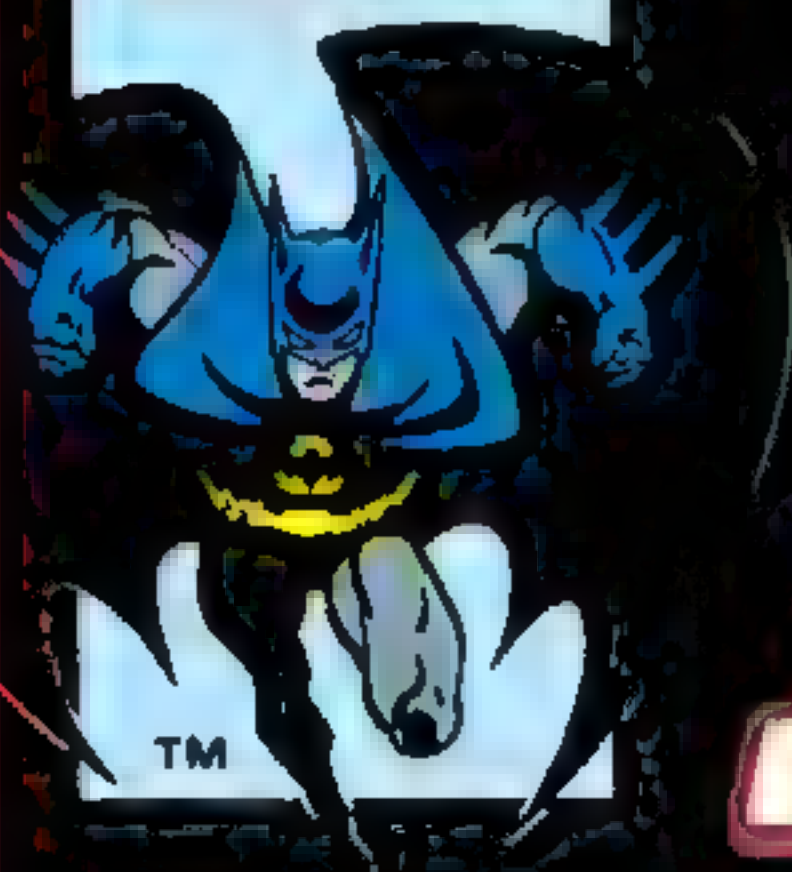








666
SEP 93



KNIGHTFALL



DETECTIVE COMICS[®]
FEATURING

BATMAN[®]



KELLEY
SINCE '93





Cover art by
KELLEY JONES



THE DEVIL
YOU KNOW

PAF

THE CITY IS
STILL NEW TO HIM.

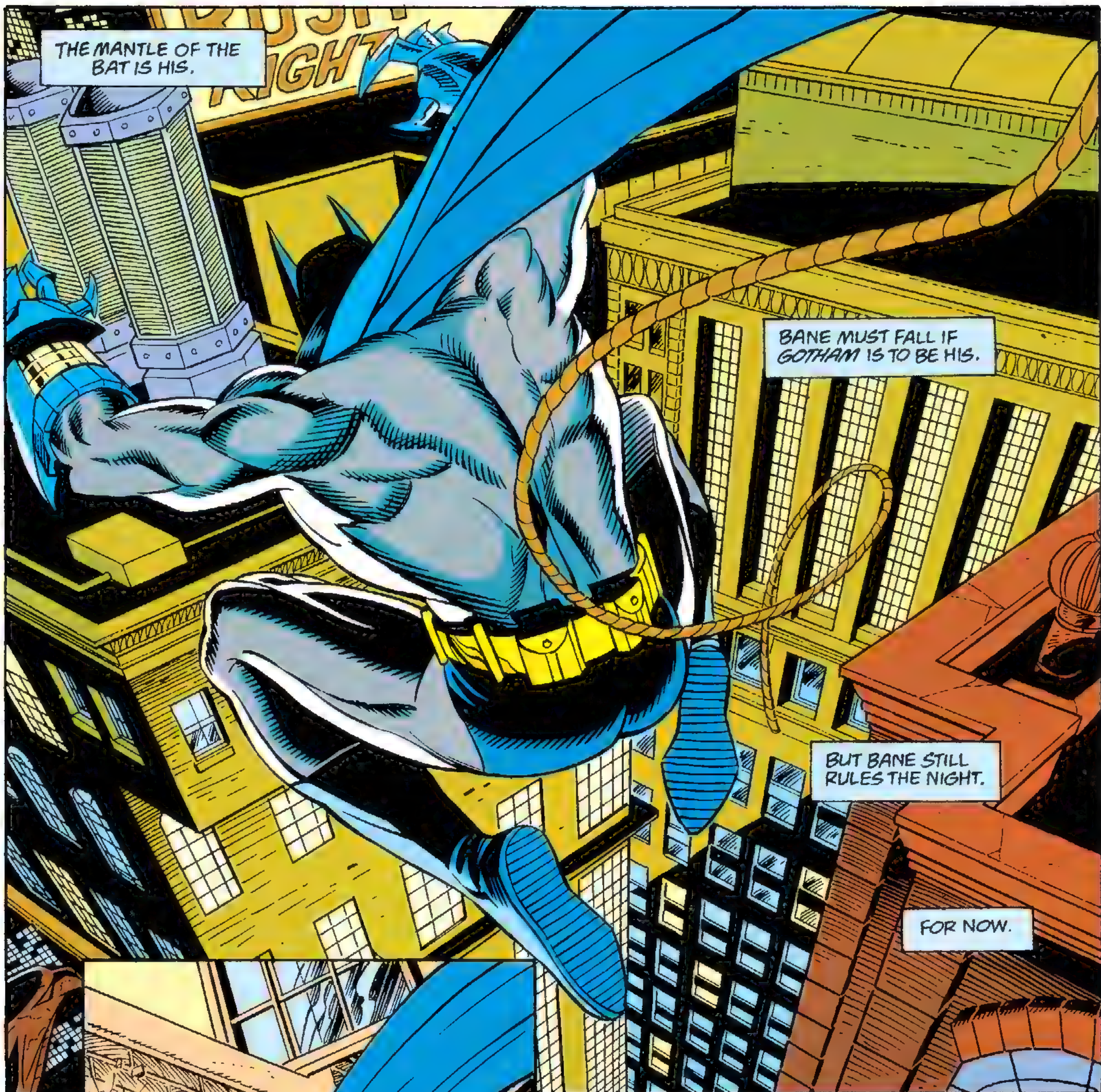
HE'LL LEARN ALL
THE SECRETS
SOON ENOUGH.

DIFFERENT JUNGLE.

SAME RULES.

CHUCK DIXON • writer
GRAHAM NOLAN • penciller
SCOTT HANNA • inker
ADRIENNE ROY • colorist
JOHN COSTANZA • letterer
DARREN VINCENZO • asst. editor
SCOTT PETERSON • editor

BATMAN created by BOB KANE

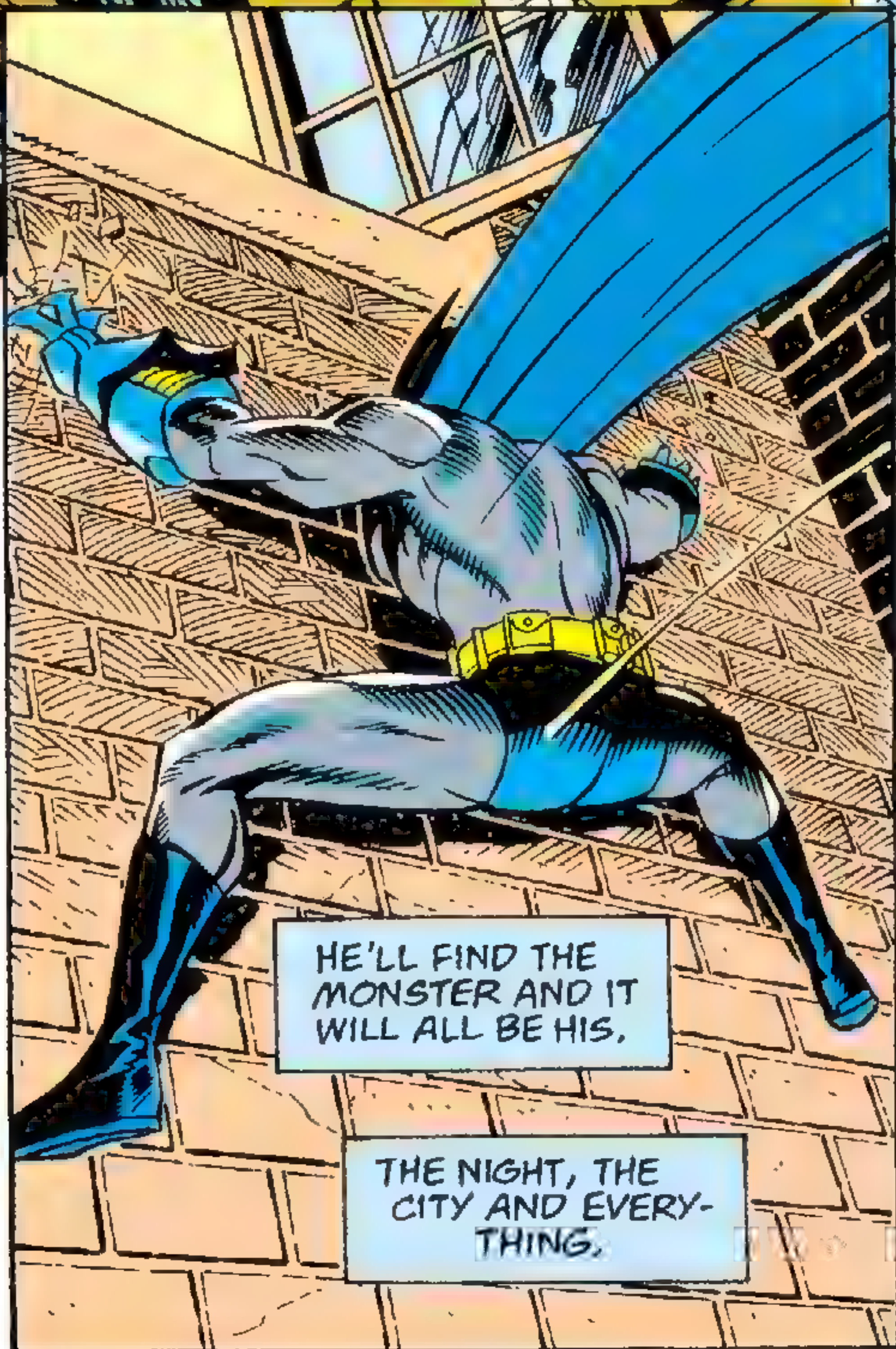


THE MANTLE OF THE
BAT IS HIS.

BANE MUST FALL IF
GOTHAM IS TO BE HIS.

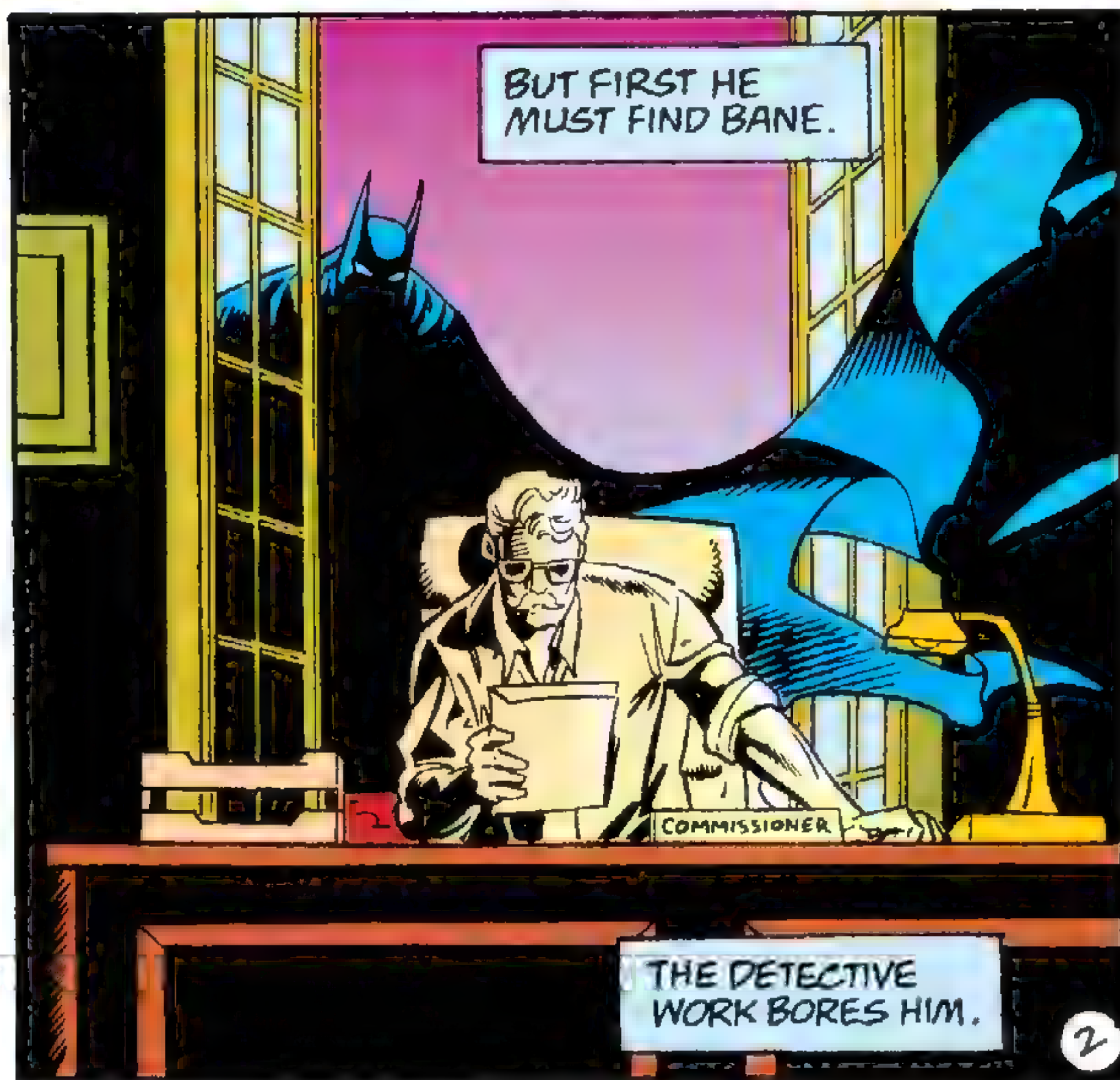
BUT BANE STILL
RULES THE NIGHT.

FOR NOW.



HE'LL FIND THE
MONSTER AND IT
WILL ALL BE HIS.

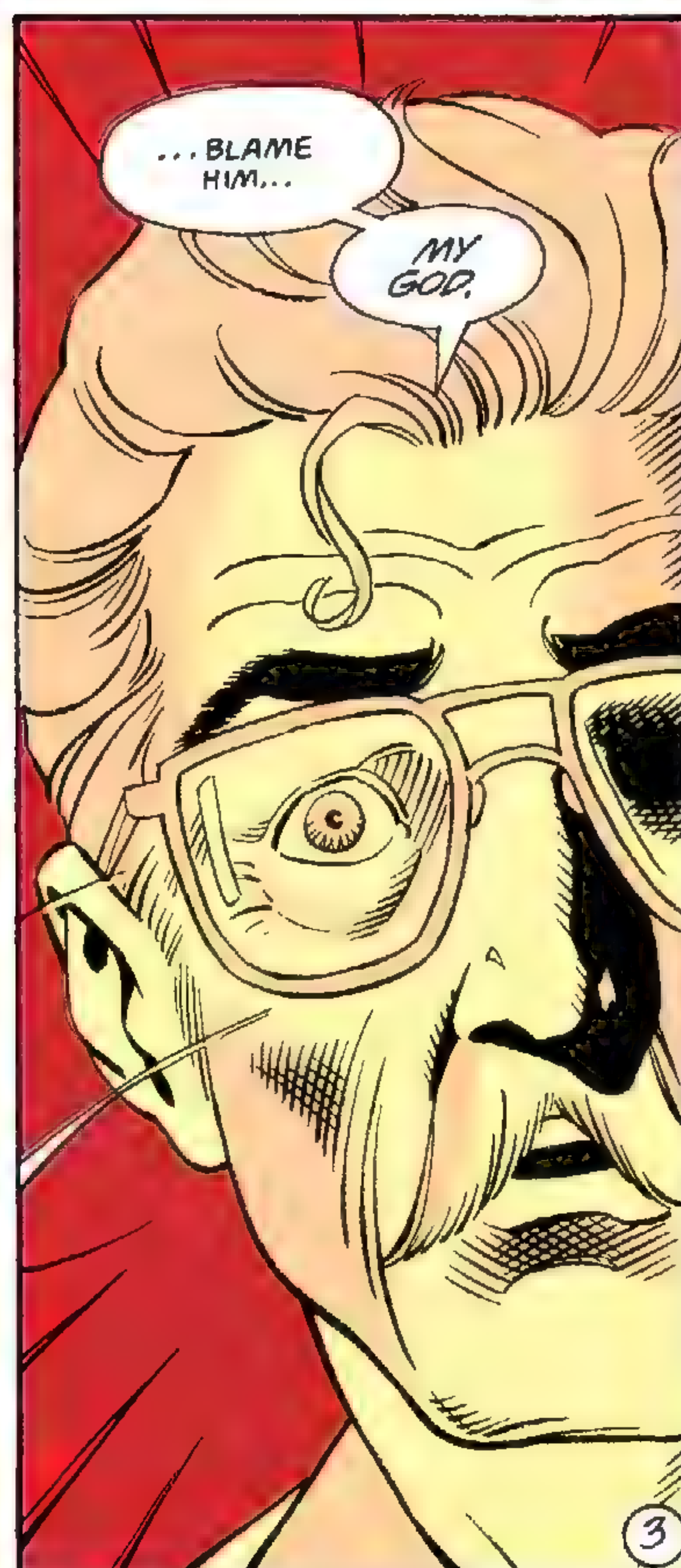
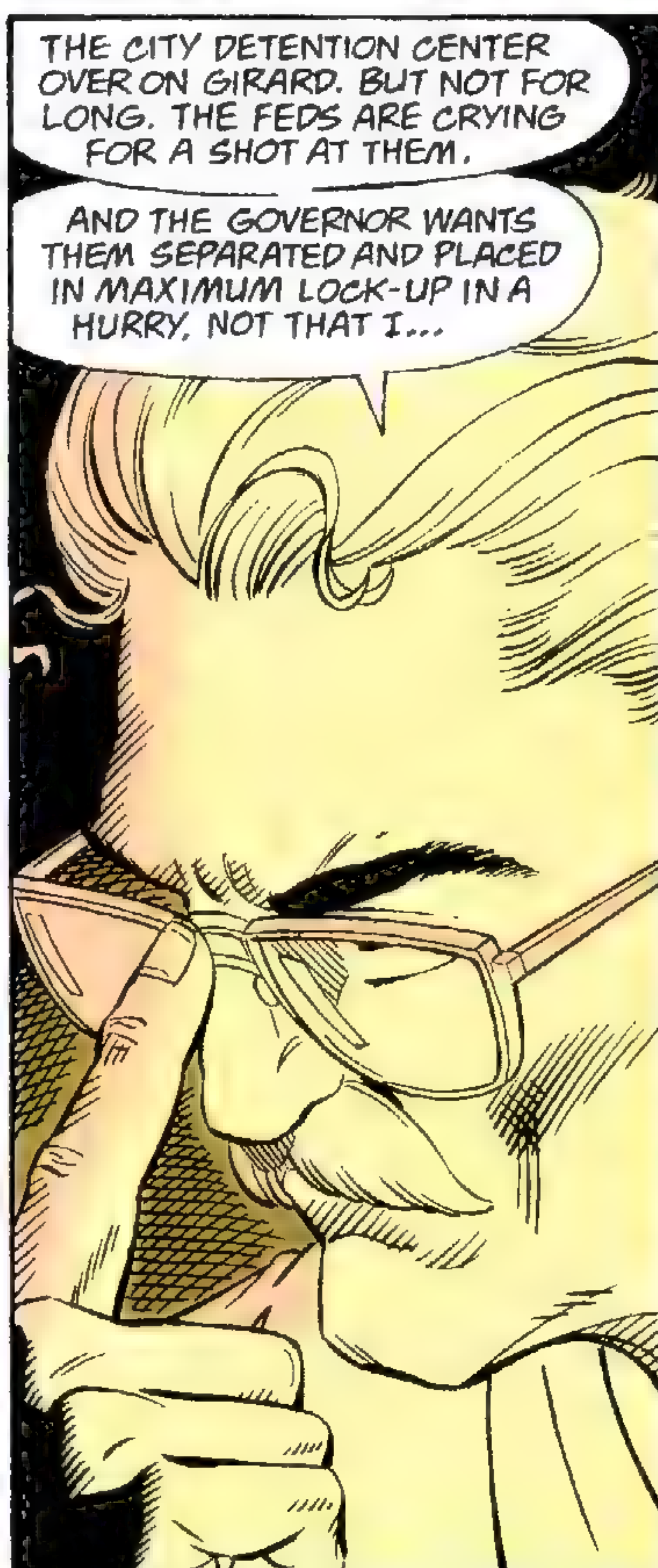
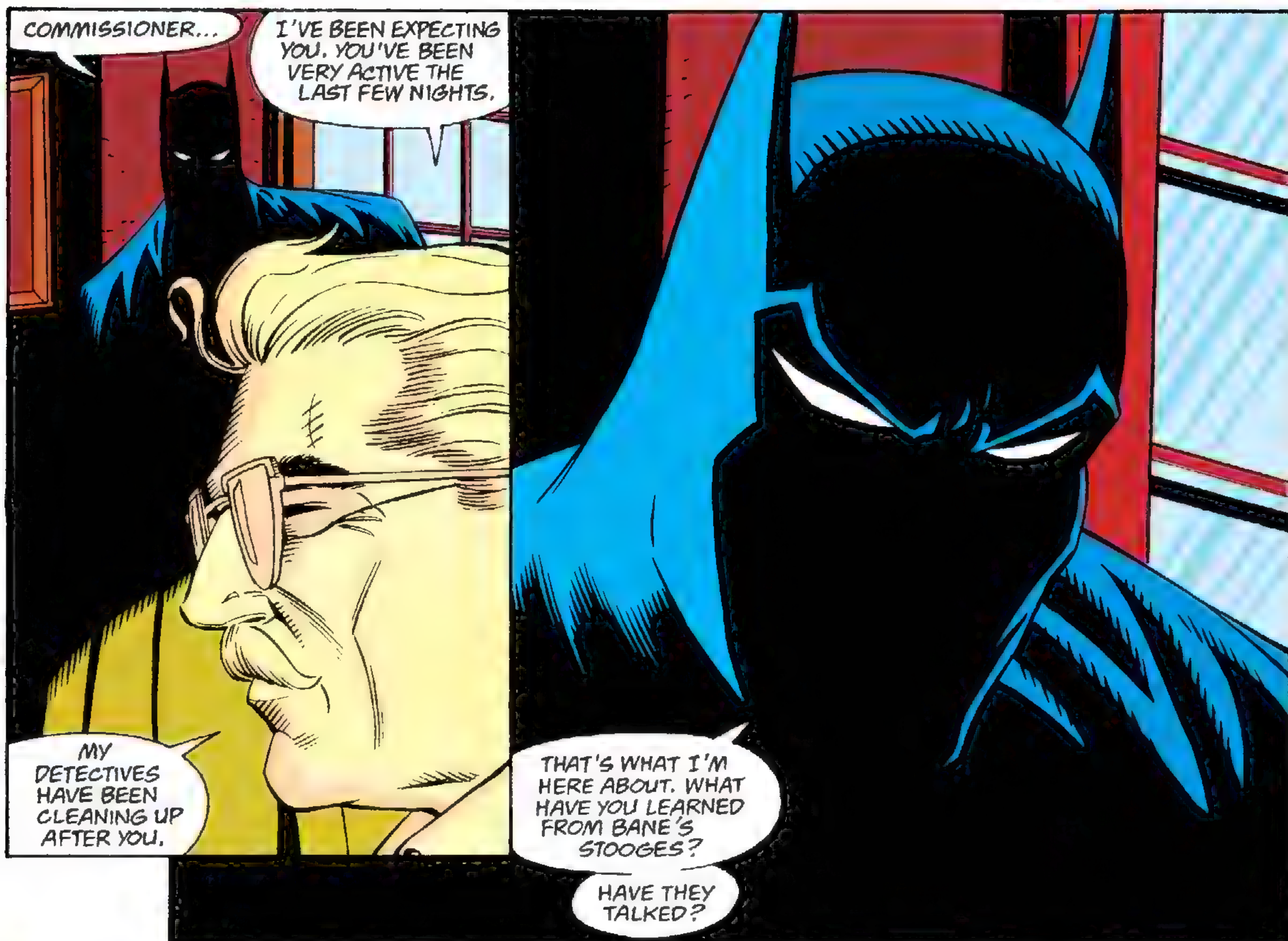
THE NIGHT, THE
CITY AND EVERY-
THING.

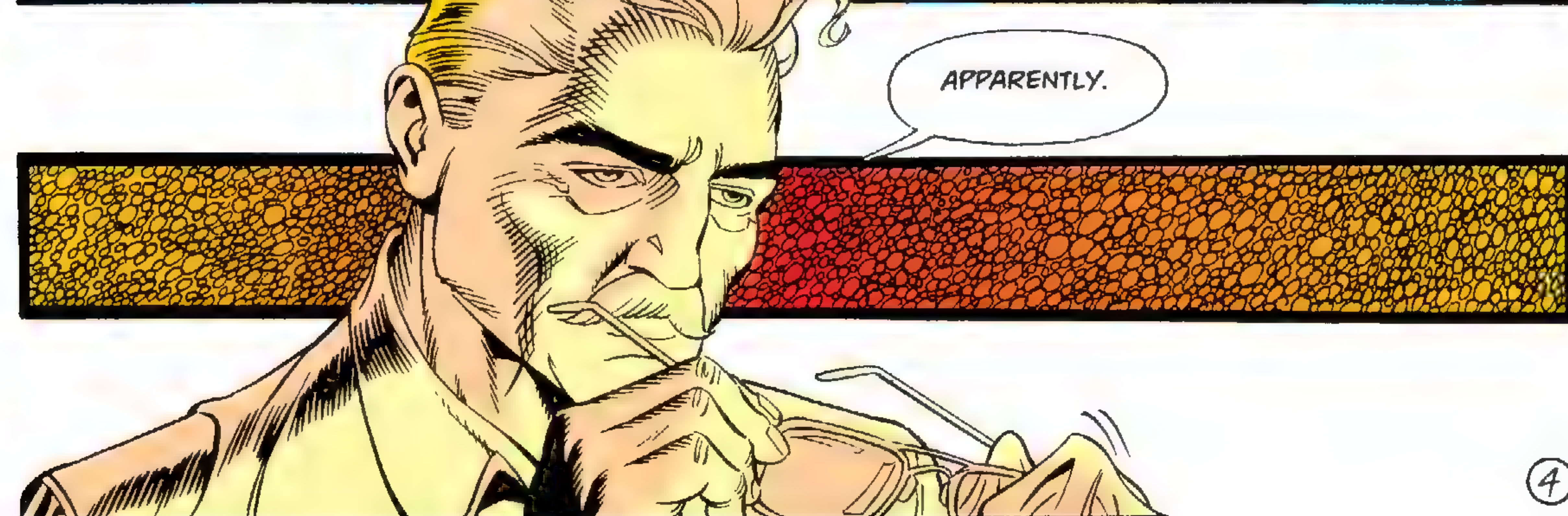
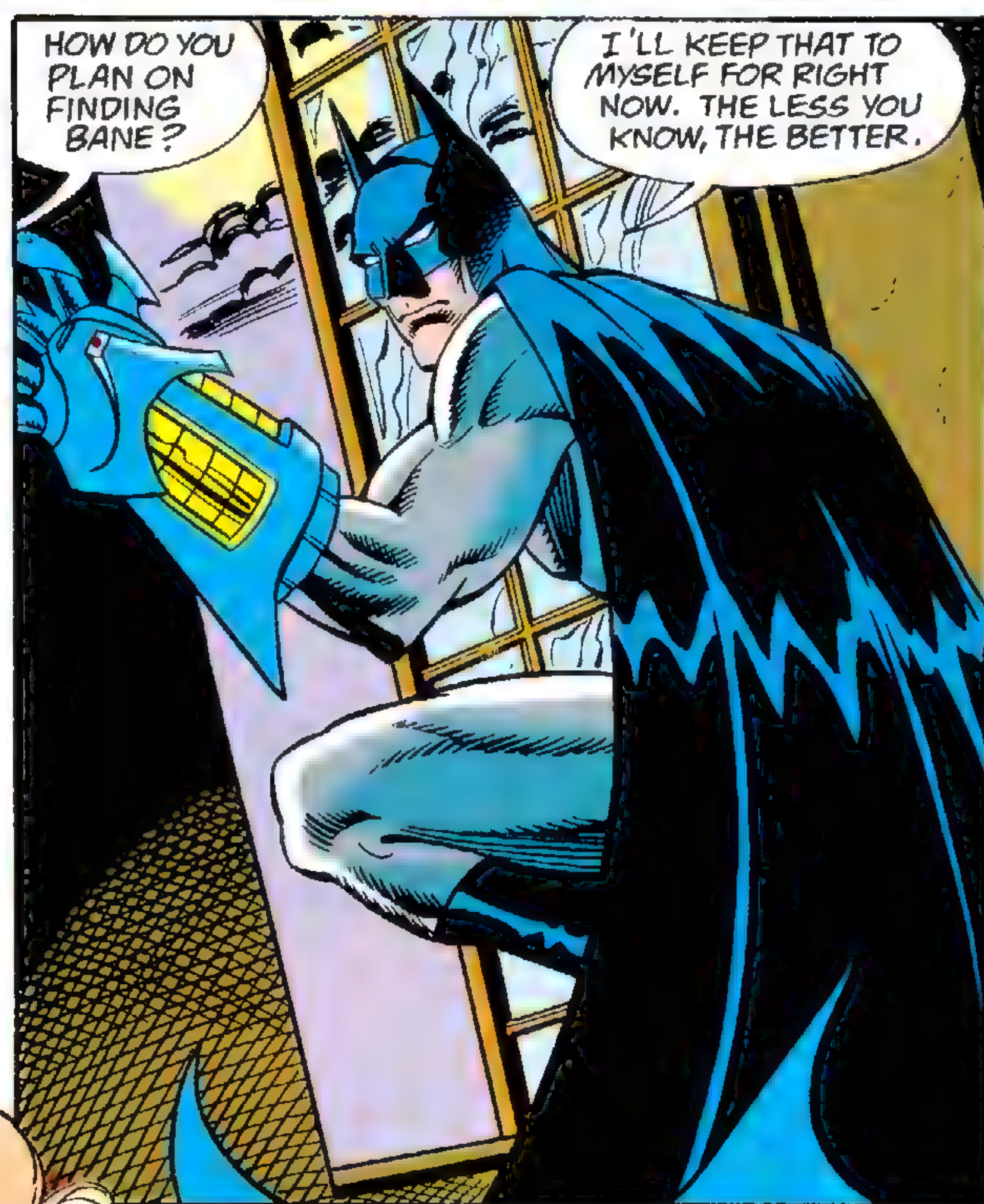
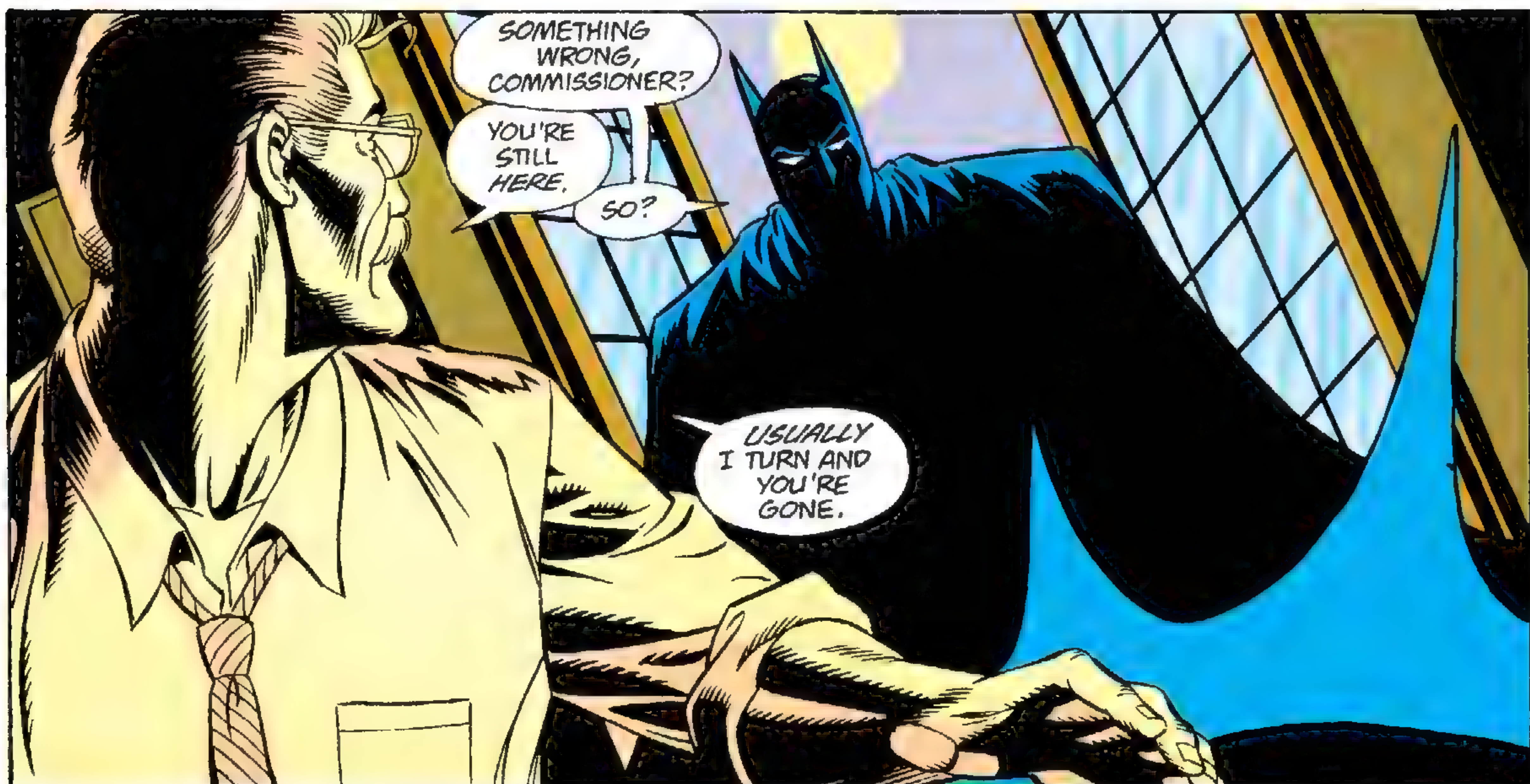


BUT FIRST HE
MUST FIND BANE.

COMMISSIONER

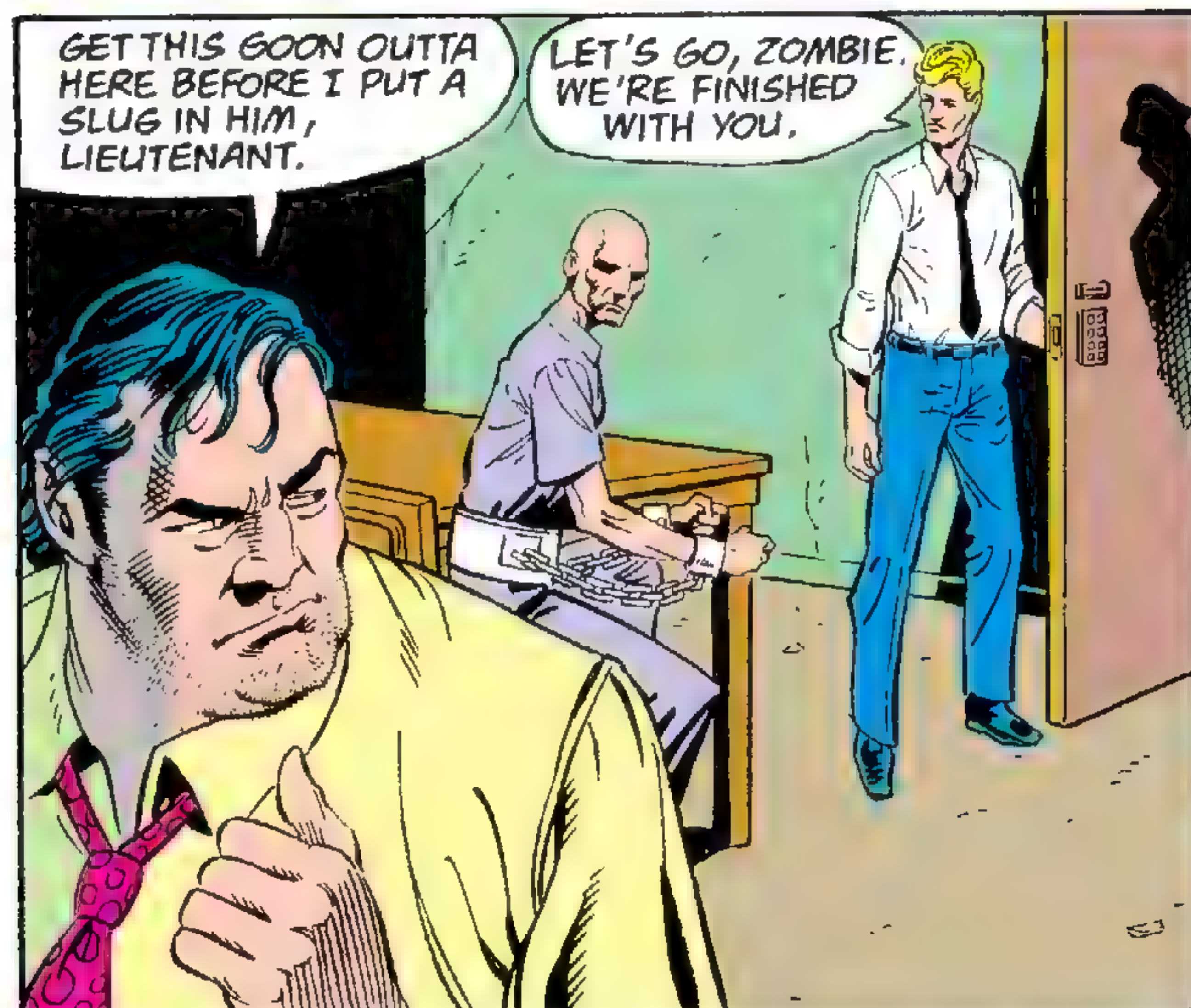
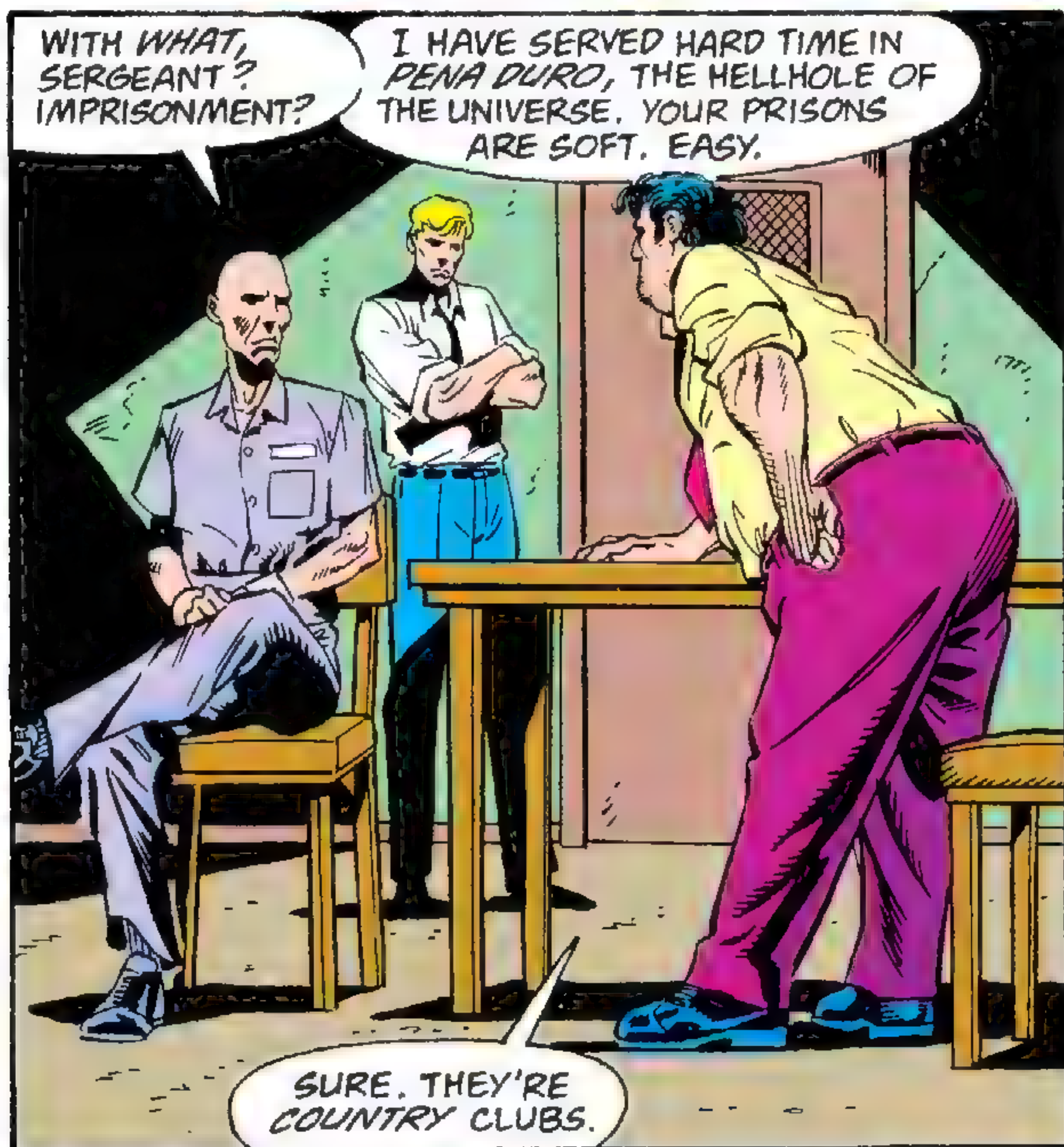
THE DETECTIVE
WORK BORES HIM.

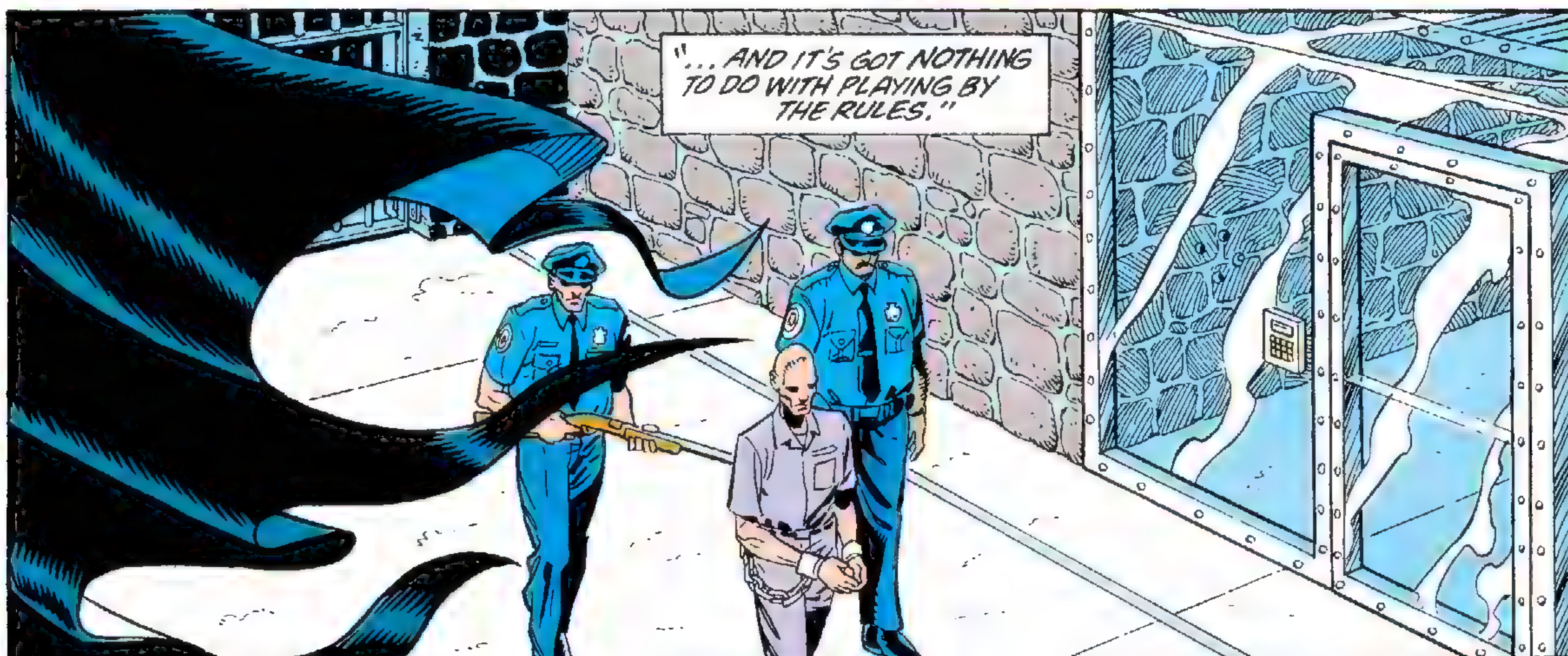


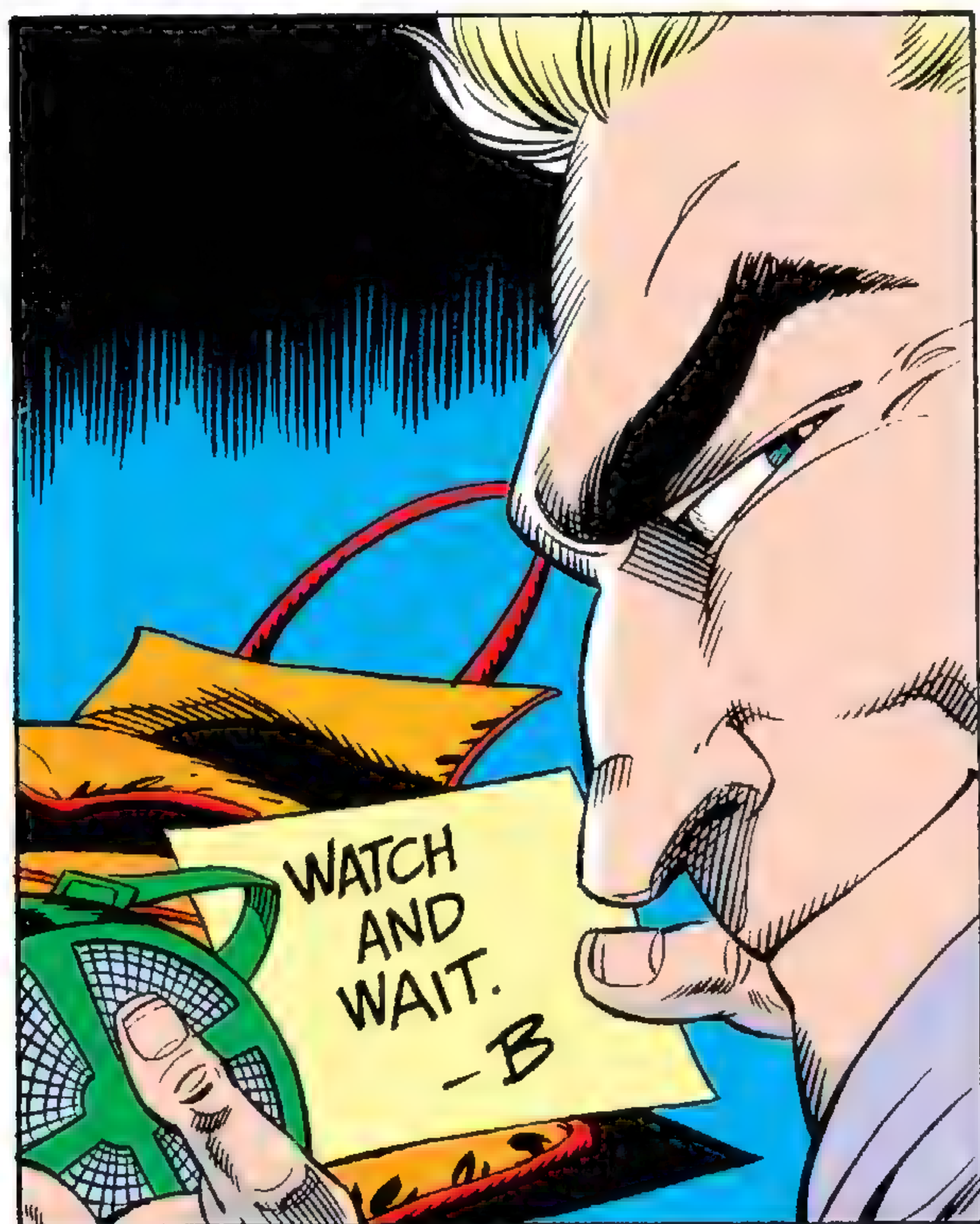
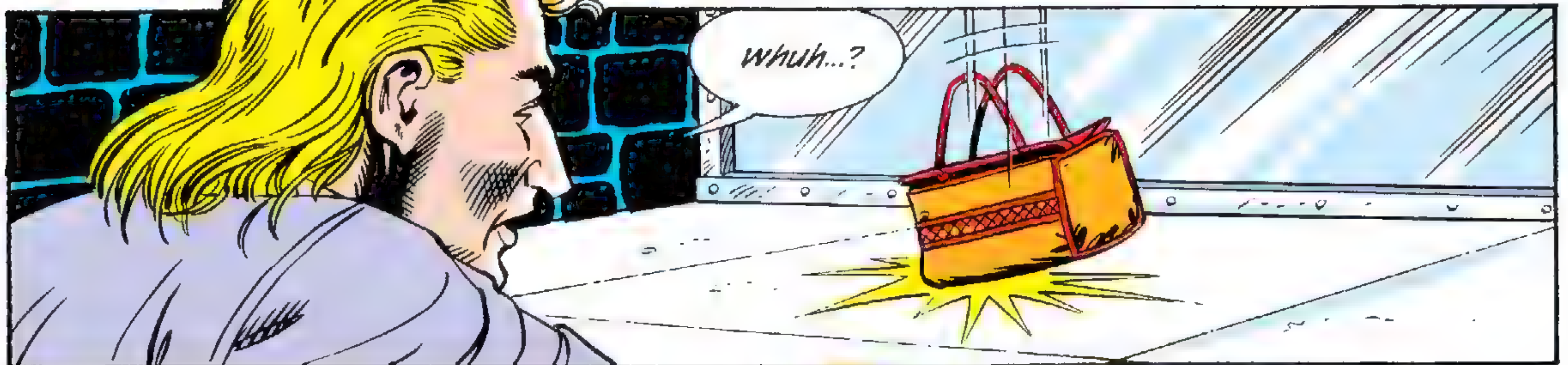


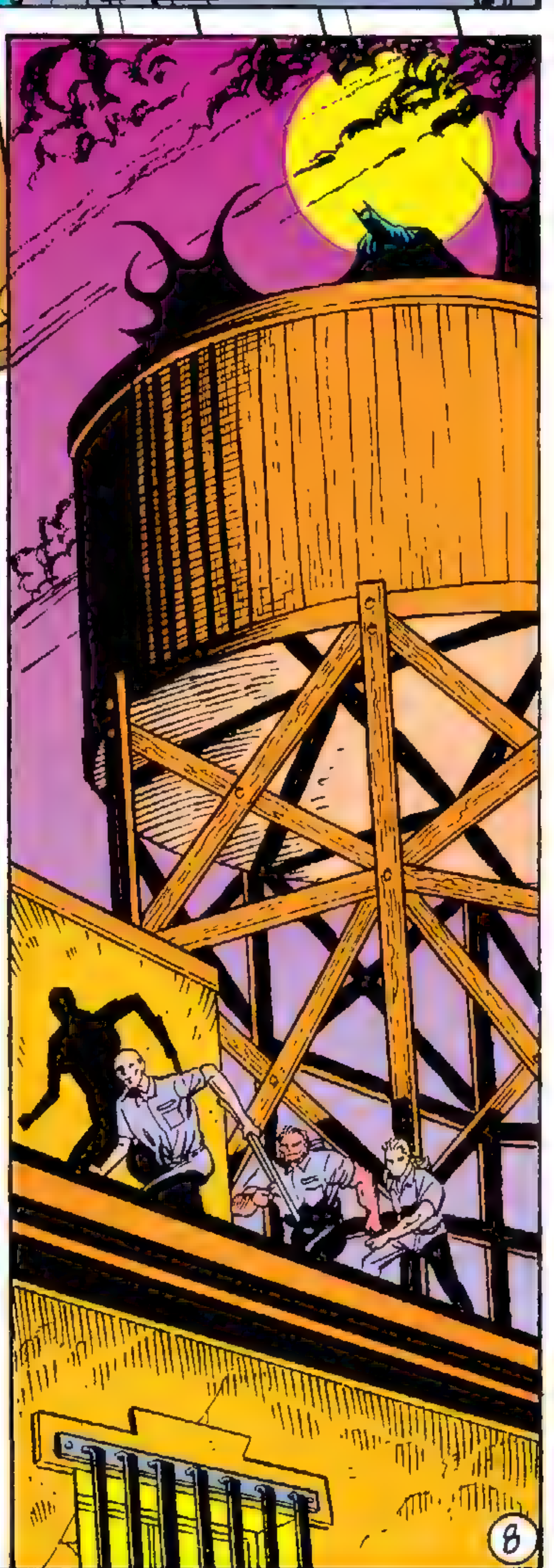
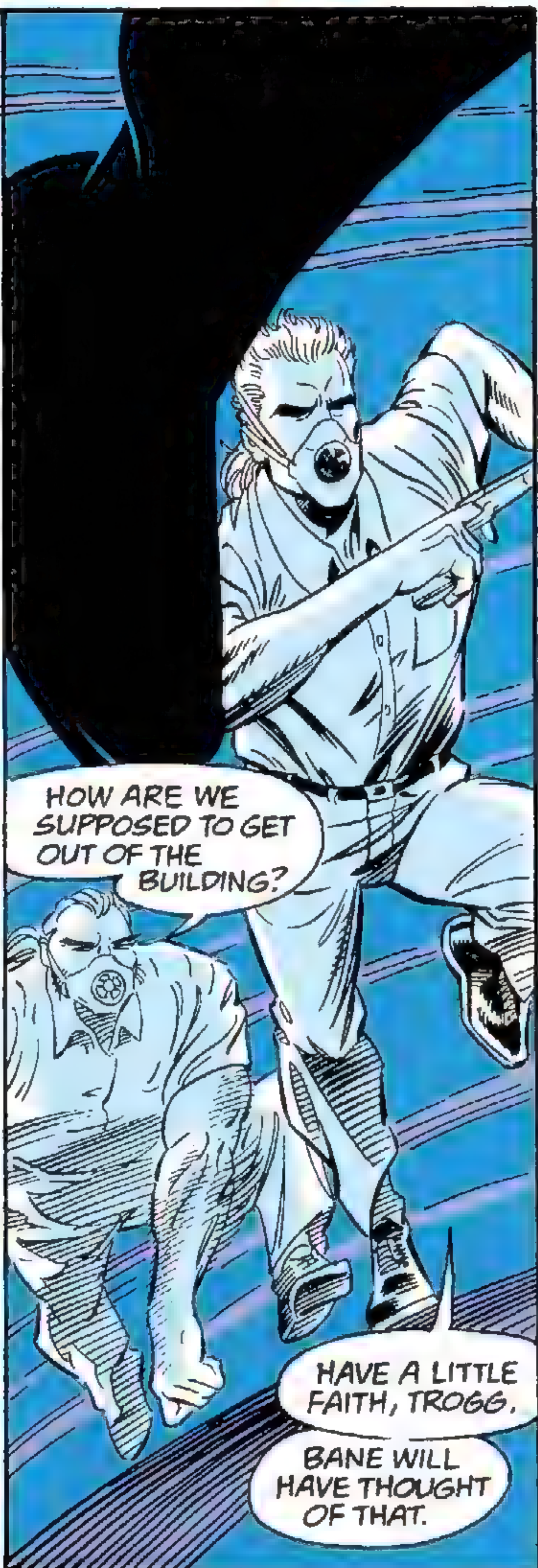
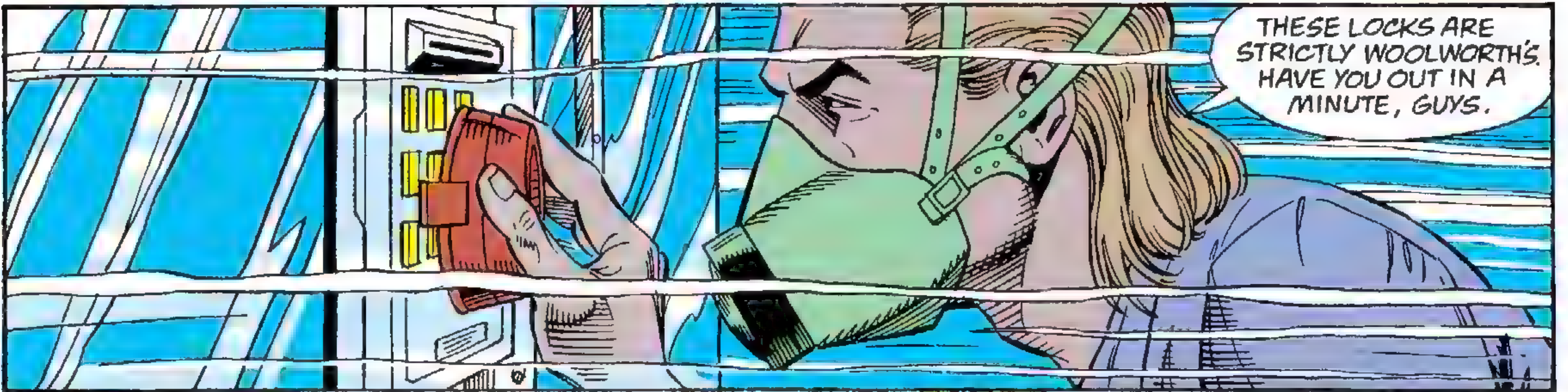
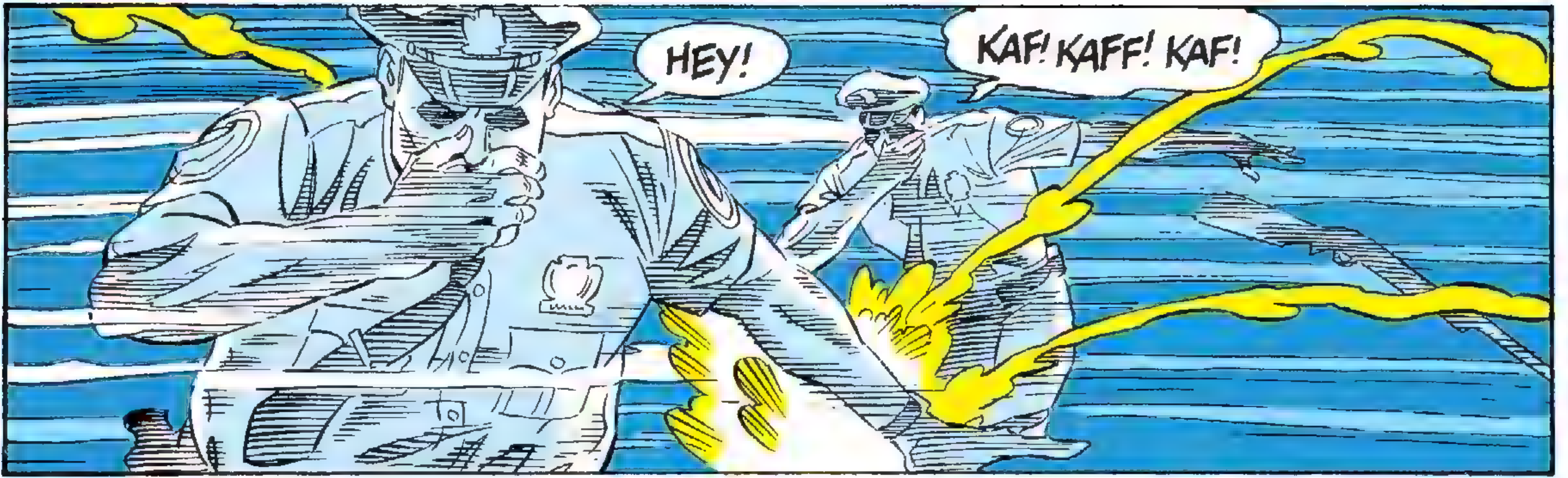


ARE YOU TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME, SERGEANT?











DAD GONE UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. BRUCE AND ALFRED GONE TO LOOK FOR HIM WITH ONLY A NOTE TO LET ME KNOW.

THE SIGNAL BEING SHOWN FOR SOME OTHER BATMAN.

AND PAUL'S MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR I'M NOT WELCOME AS HIS PARTNER.

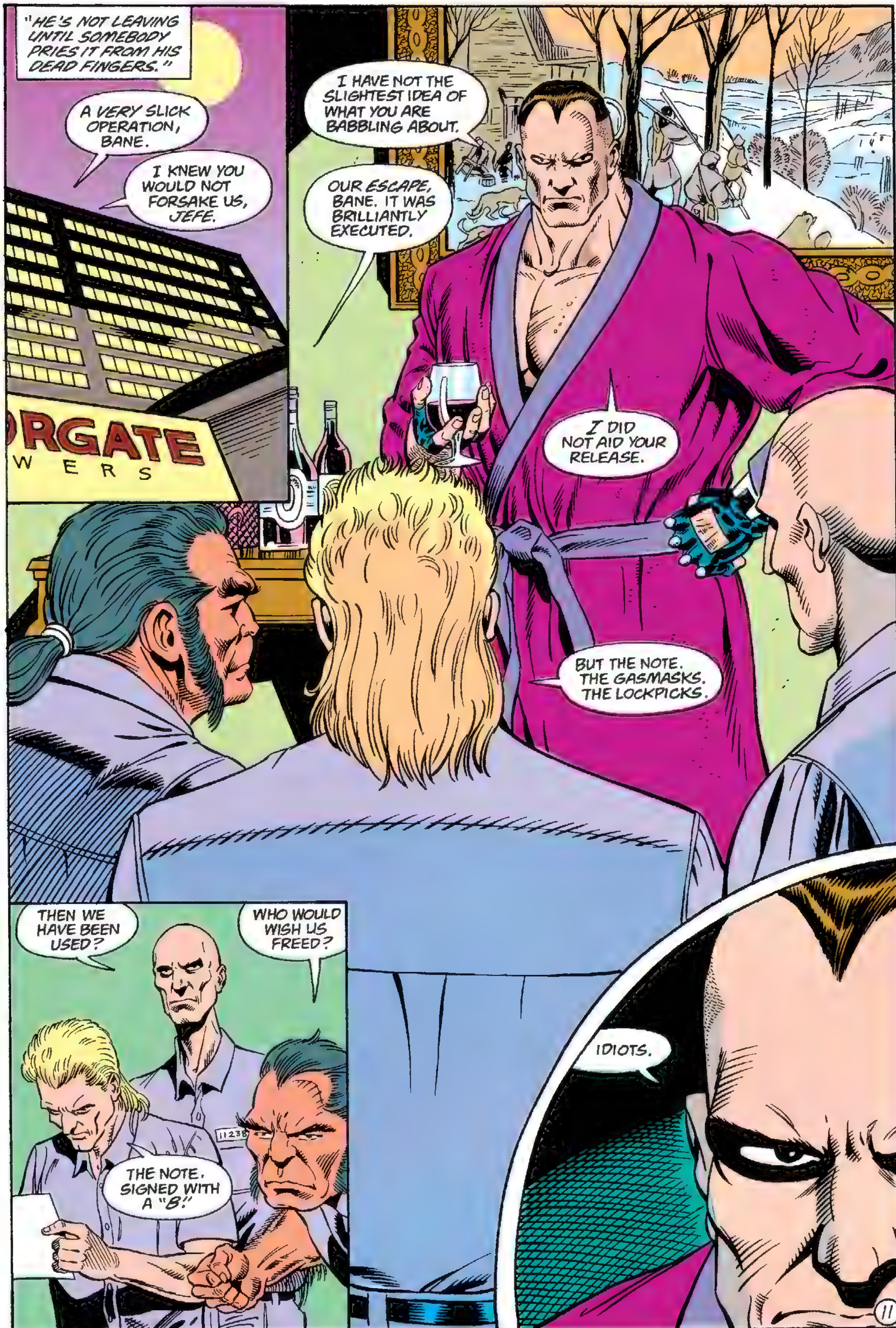
WELL, THAT'S TOUGH. HE DIDN'T GIVE ME THE JOB.

"AND ONLY ONE MAN CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME."

I COULDA TOLD YA THOSE FREAKS SHOULDA BEEN SLAPPED IN A MAX SECURITY CELL OUT ON BLACKGATE.

NOW BANE AND HIS PALS ARE PROBABLY HALFWAY TO RIO AND LAUGHING THEMSELVES STUPID AT GOTHAM'S "FINEST!"

YOU'RE WRONG, HARV. BANE WORKED TOO HARD TO GET HIS GRIP ON THIS TOWN'S UNDERWORLD.



"HE'S NOT LEAVING UNTIL SOMEBODY PRIES IT FROM HIS DEAD FINGERS."

A VERY SLICK OPERATION, BANE.

I KNEW YOU WOULD NOT FORSAKE US, JEFE.

I HAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF WHAT YOU ARE BABBLING ABOUT.

OUR ESCAPE, BANE. IT WAS BRILLIANTLY EXECUTED.

I DID NOT AID YOUR RELEASE.

BUT THE NOTE. THE GASMASKS. THE LOCKPICKS.

THEN WE HAVE BEEN USED?

WHO WOULD WISH US FREED?

THE NOTE. SIGNED WITH A "B."

IDIOTS.



JUST A SMALL CHARGE STUCK TO THE WINDOW.

BA-BOOM

A FLASH AND BANG LOAD.

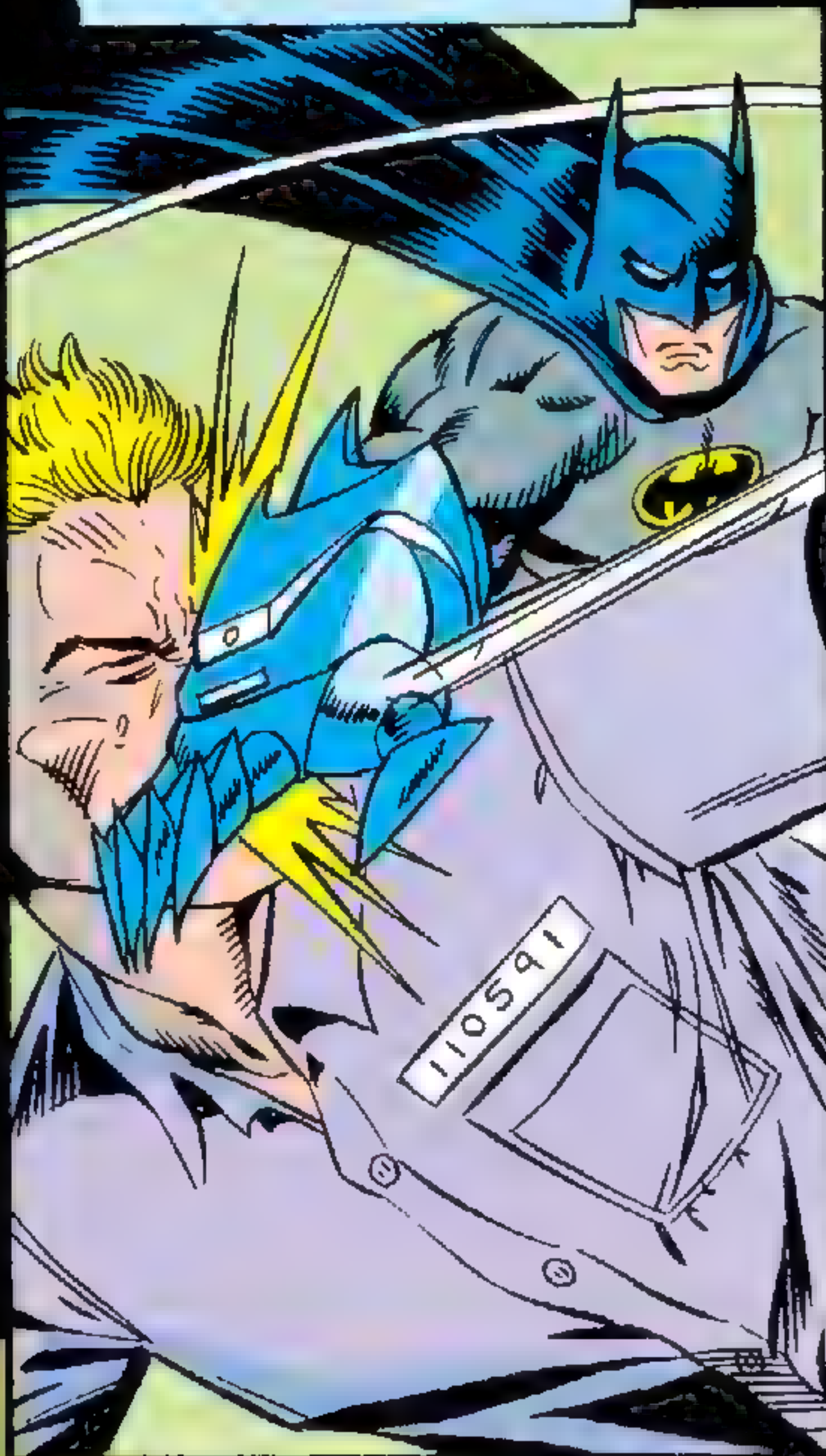
HE WANTS THEM DISORIENTED AND OFF BALANCE.

HE HAS NO TIME FOR SUBTLETY.

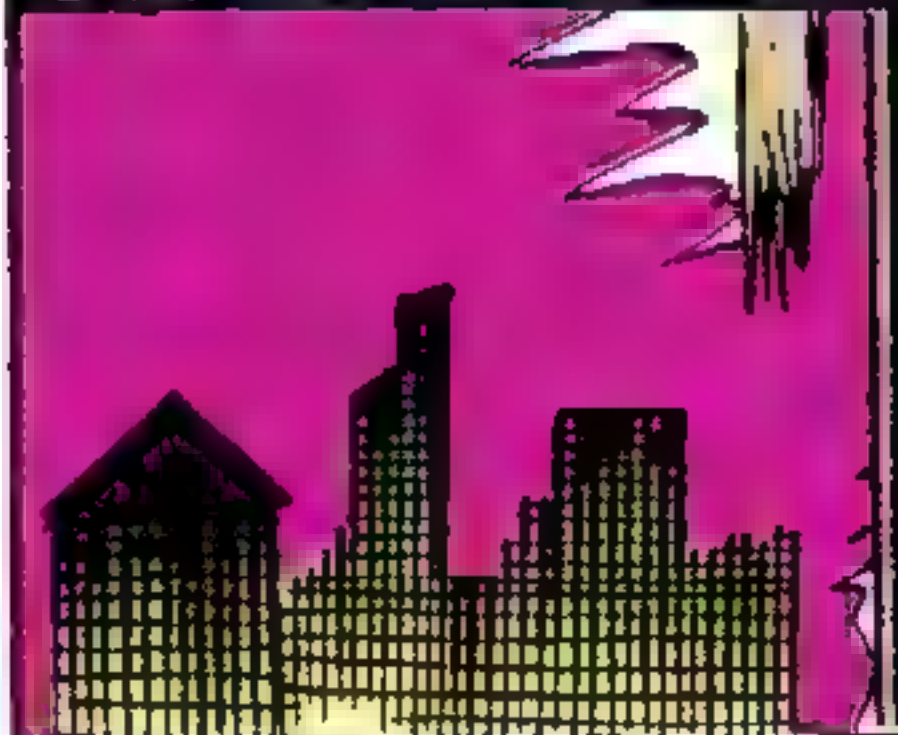
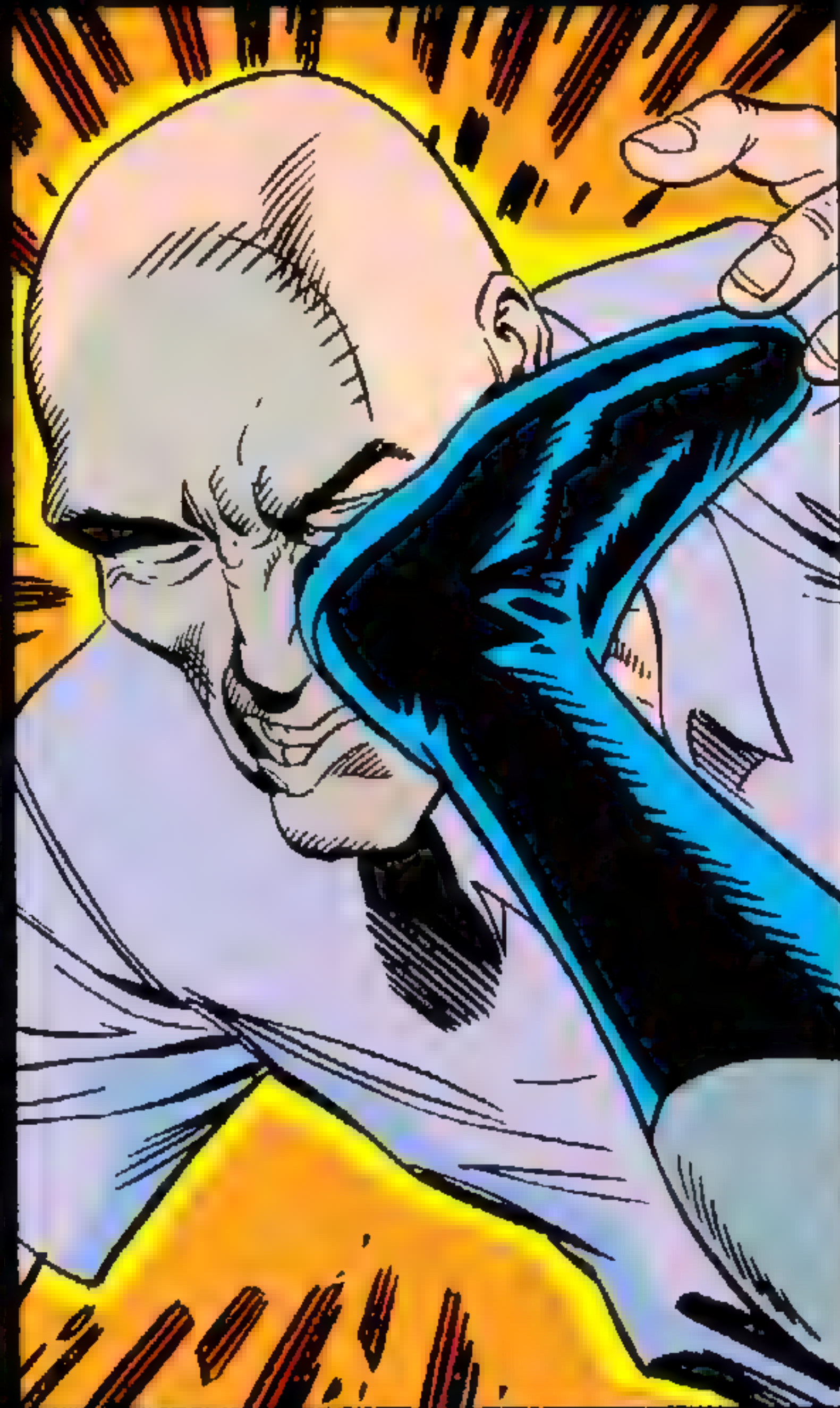
THIS IS WAR.



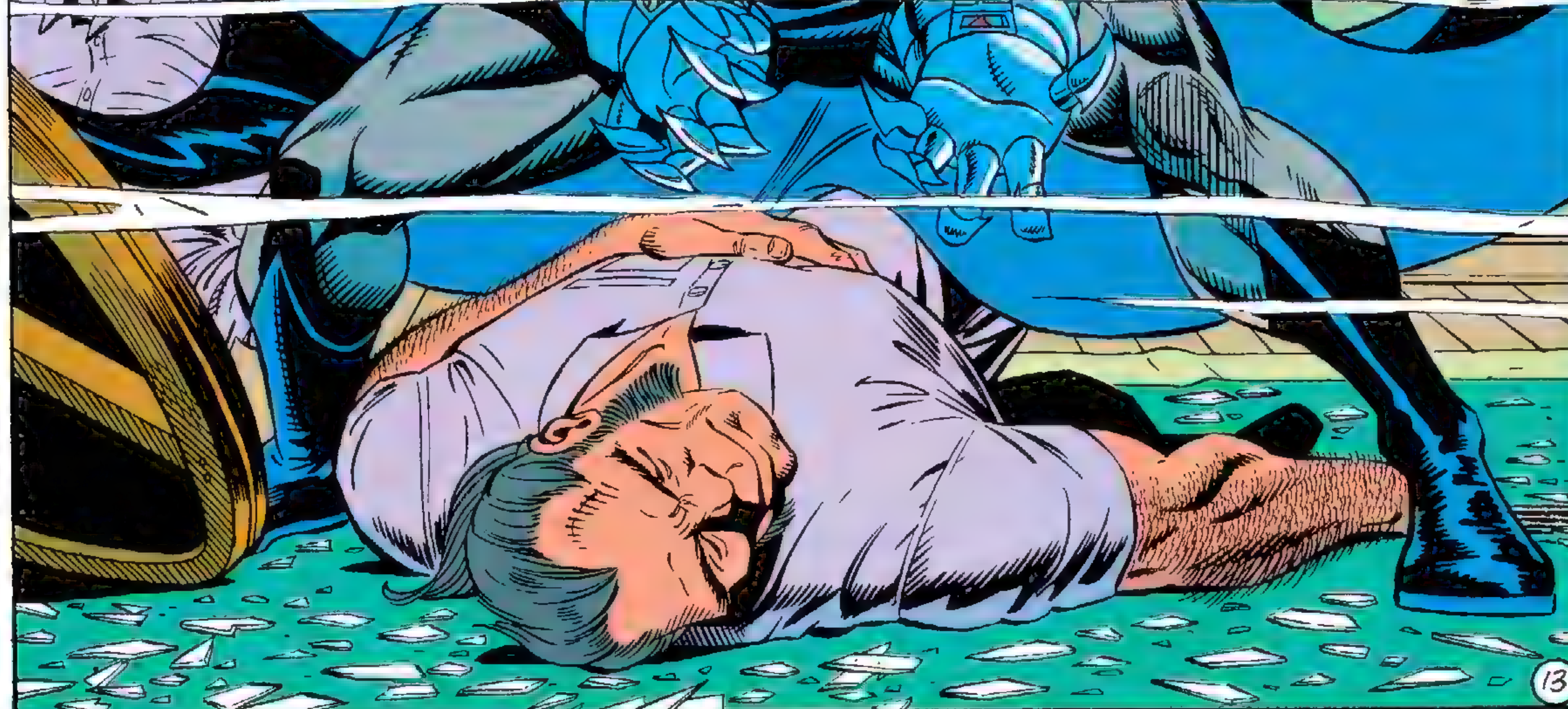
THE UNDERLINGS ARE
JUST CHAFF.

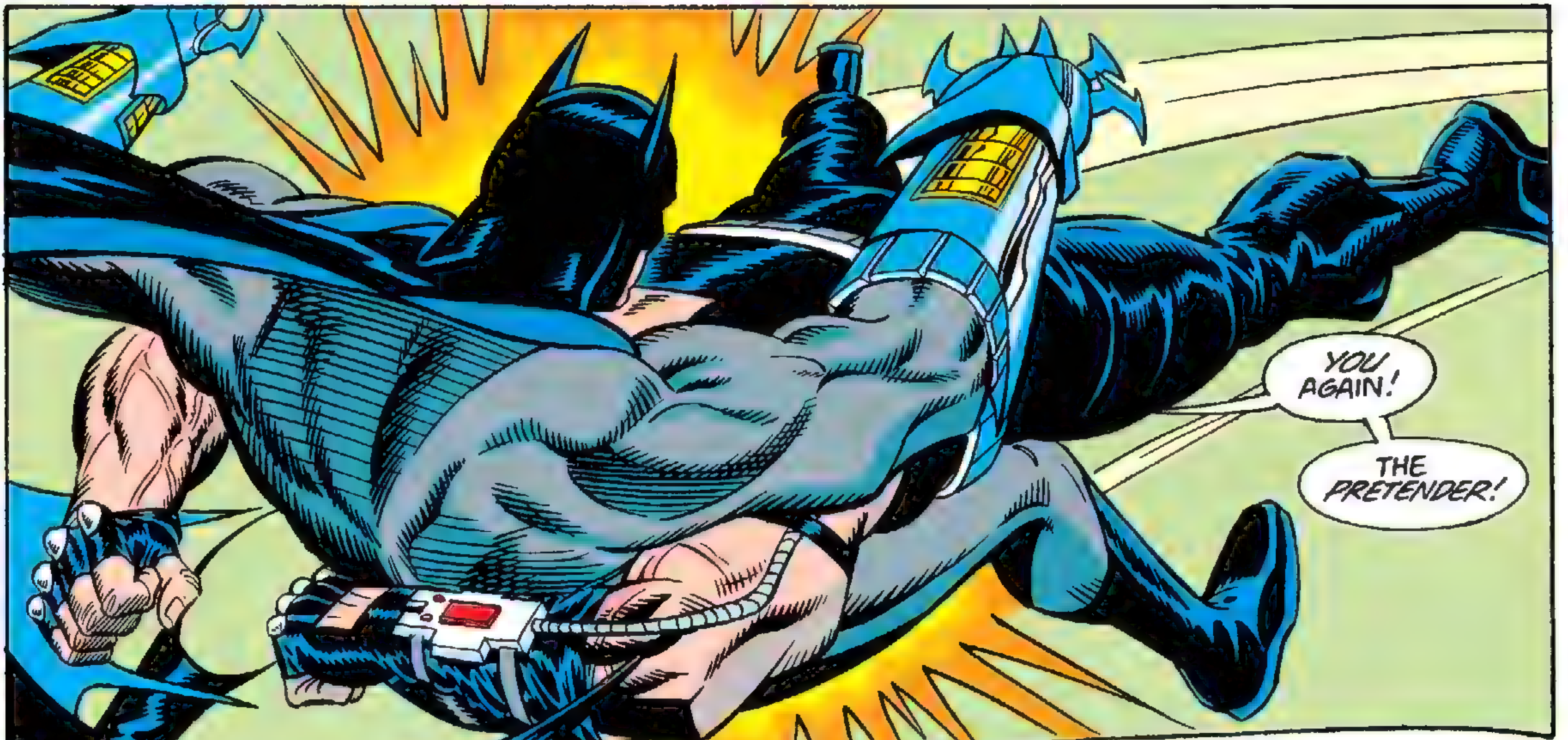


GET THROUGH THEM
AND MOVE ON.



BANE!





YOU AGAIN!

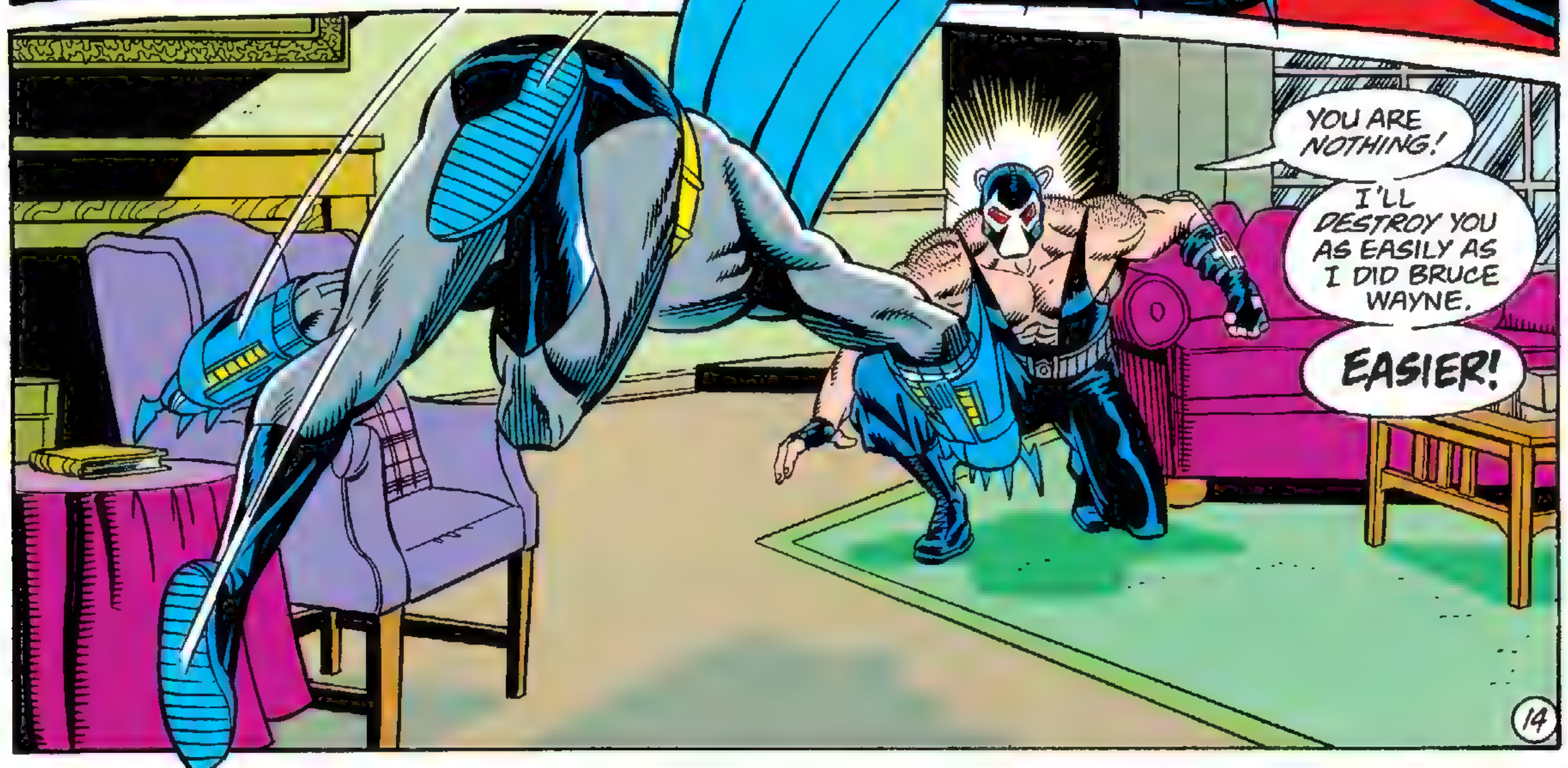
THE PRETENDER!



I'M NO PRETENDER, BANE.

I'M THE BATMAN. THE ONLY BATMAN YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.

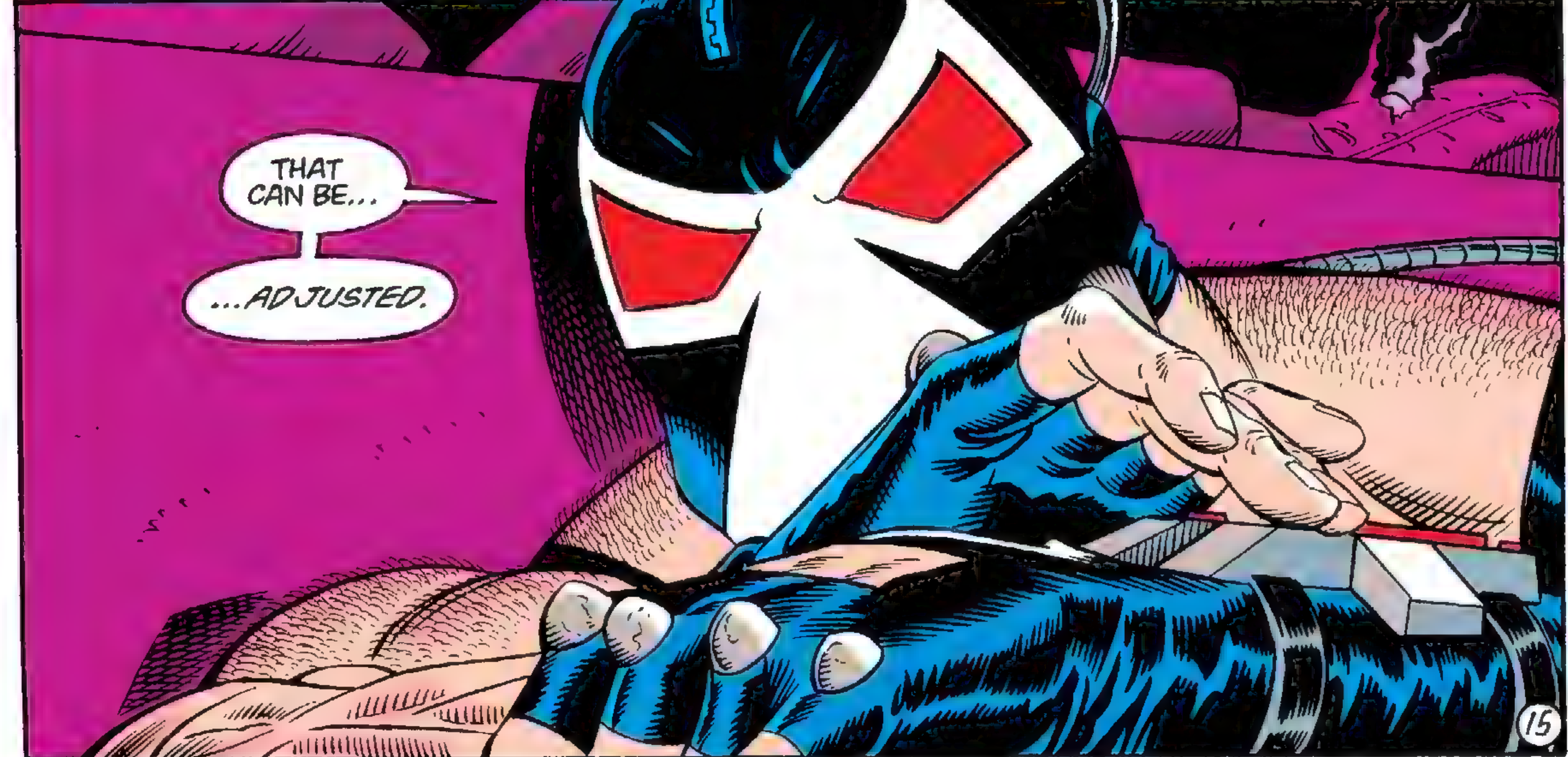
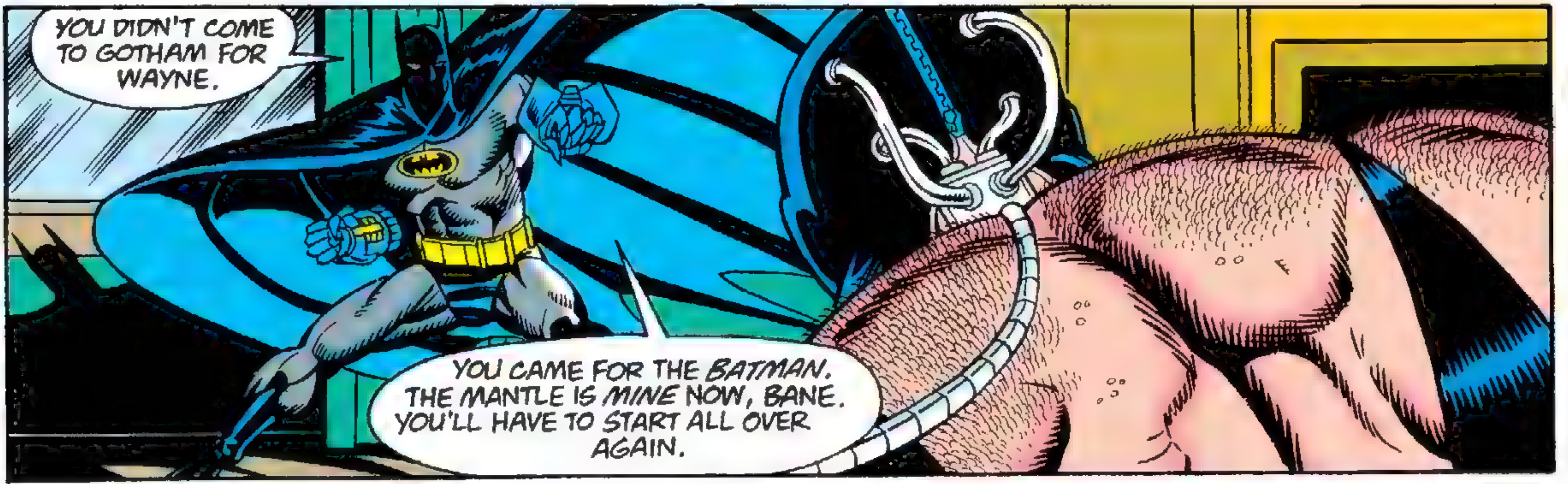
UNNH!

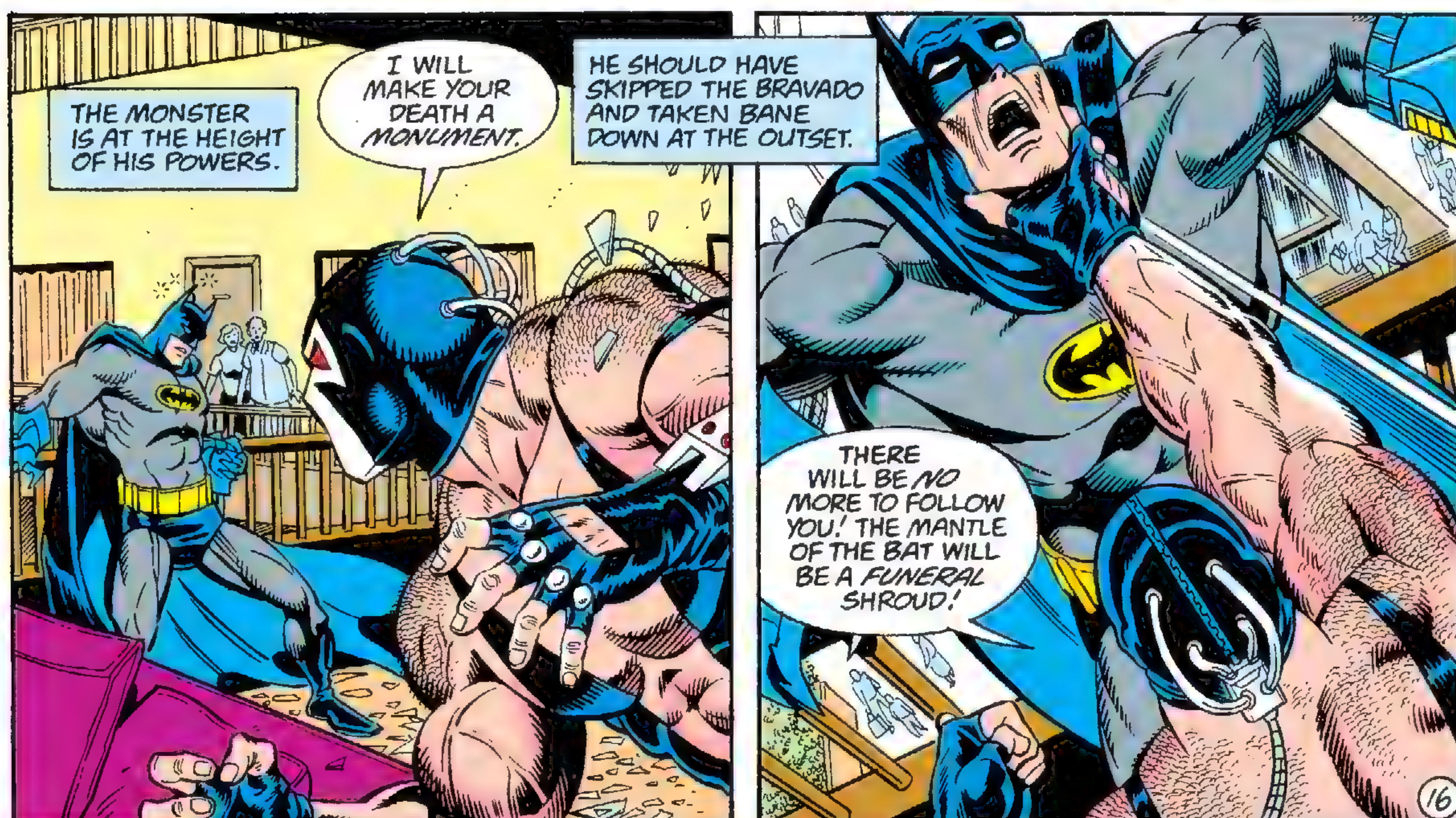
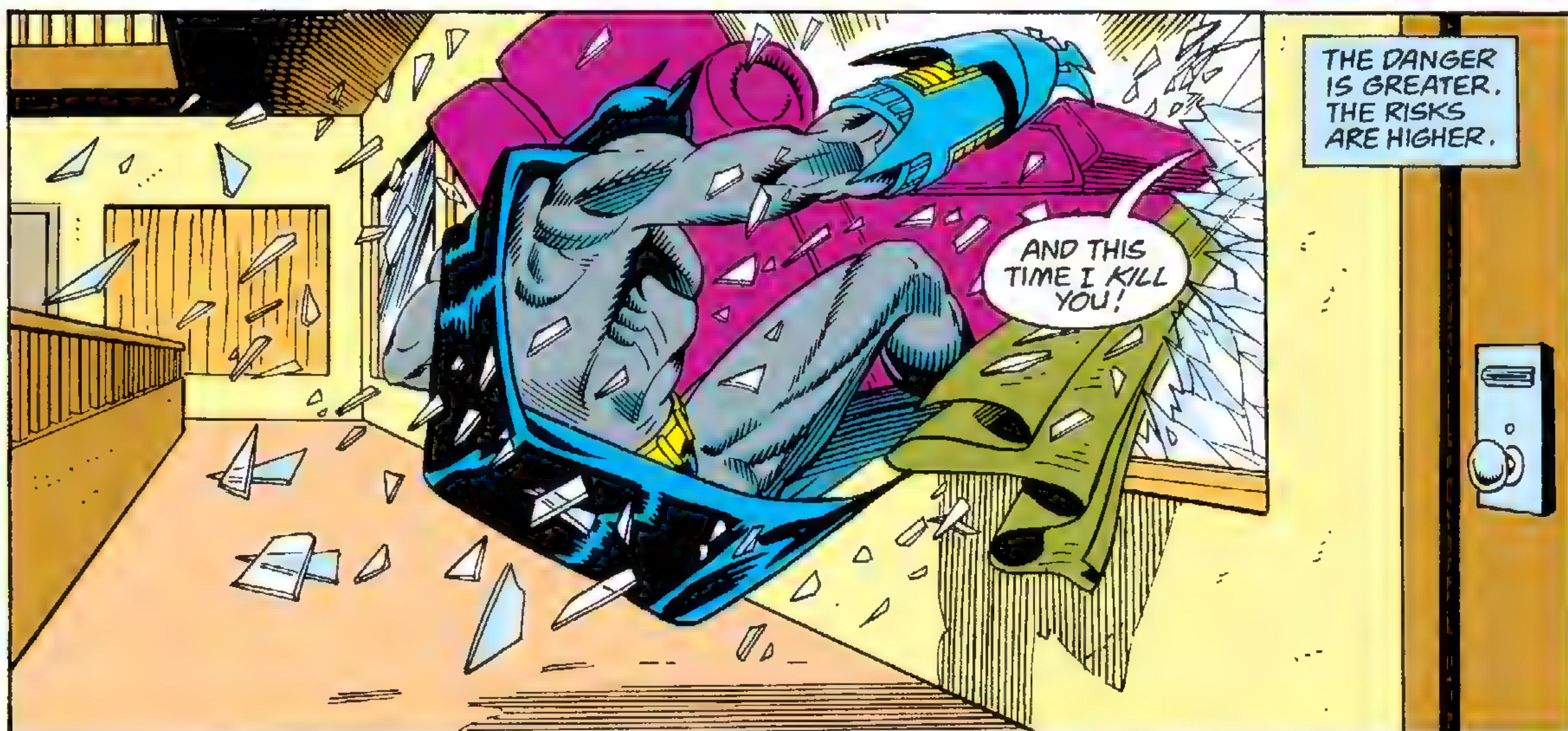
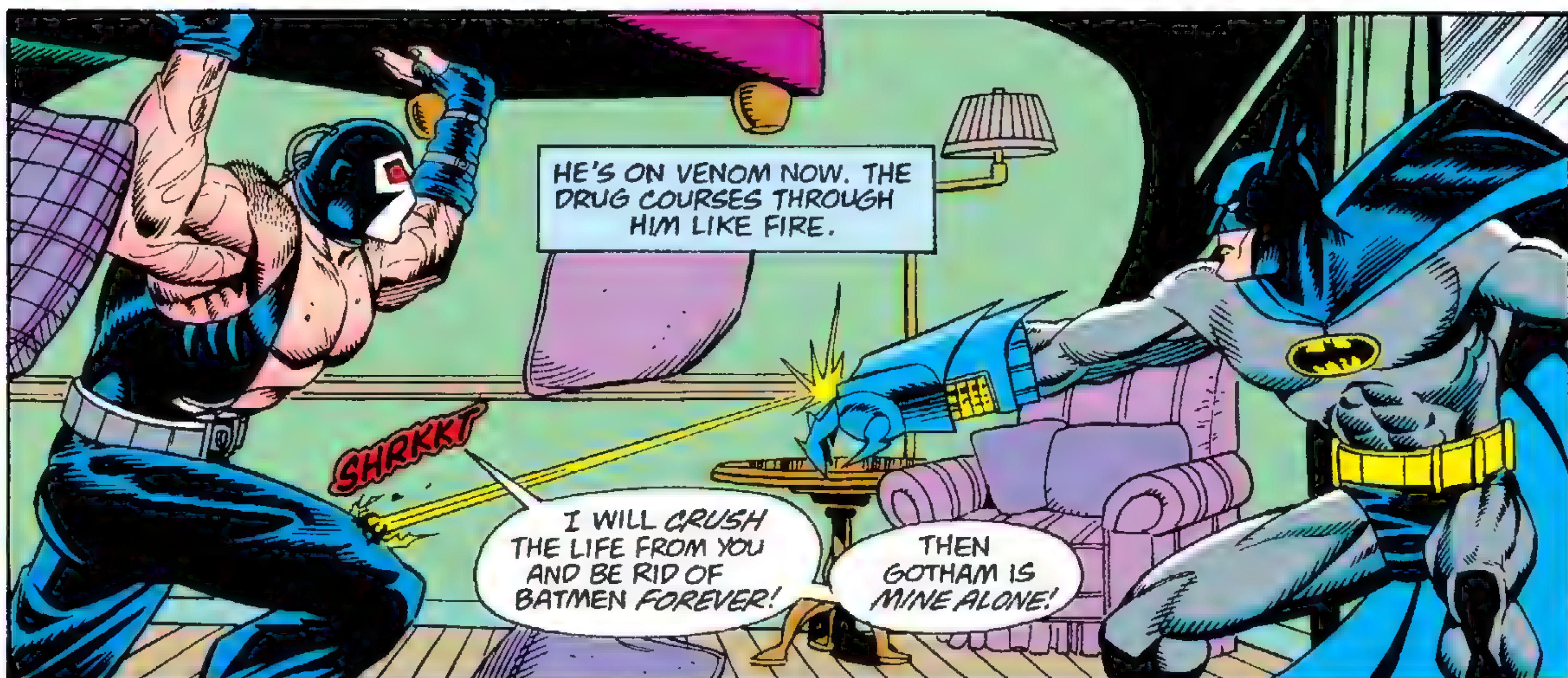


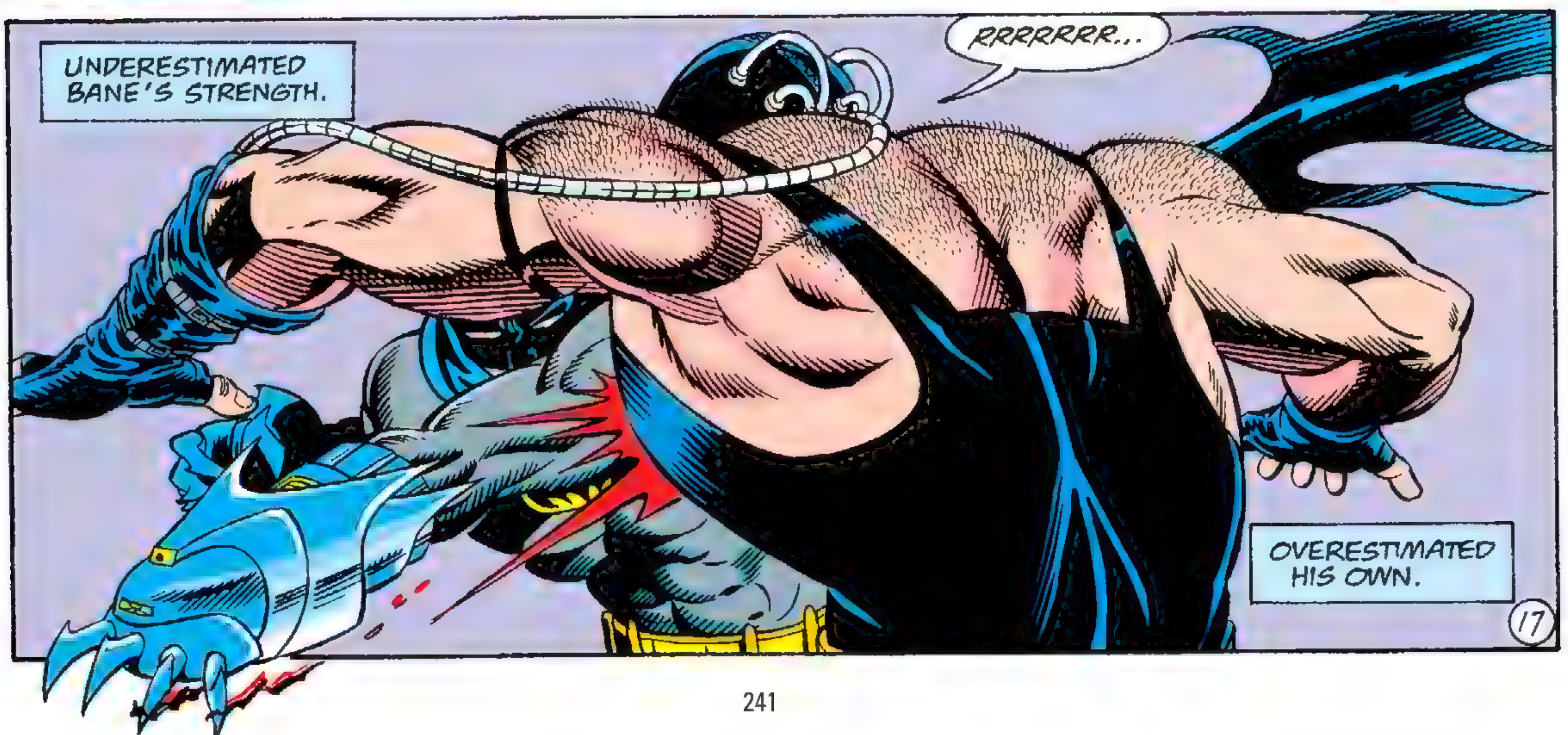
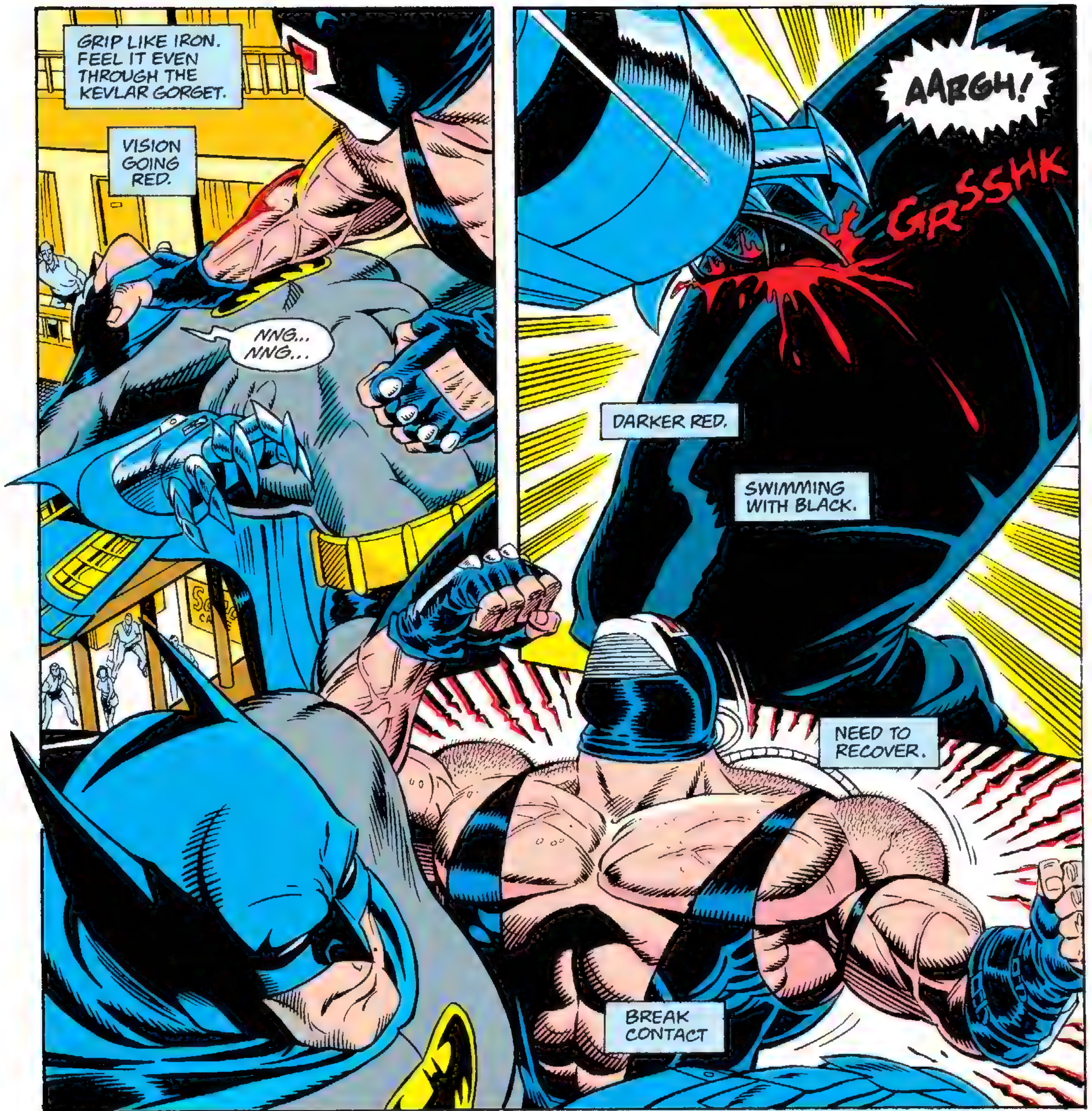
YOU ARE NOTHING!

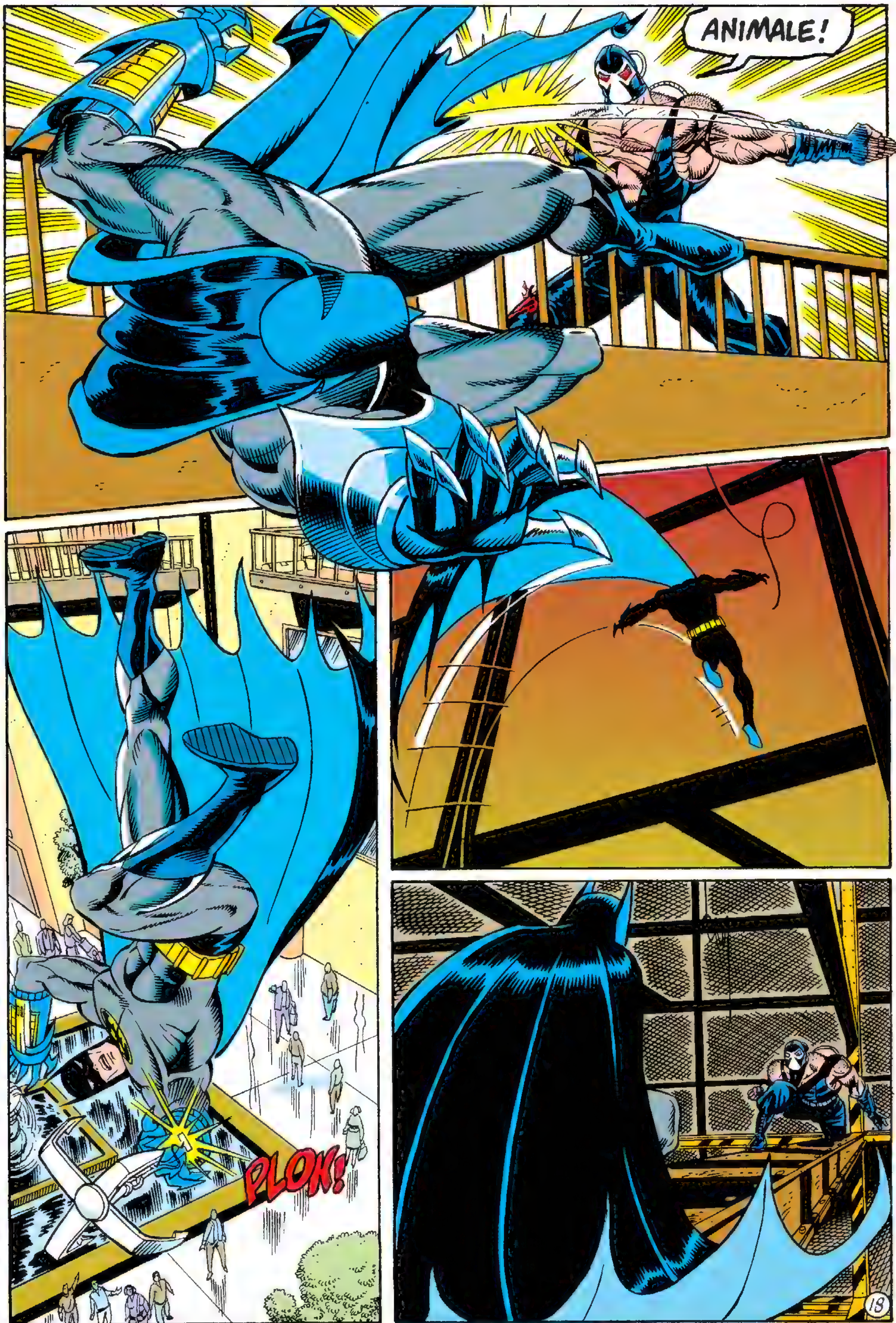
I'LL DESTROY YOU AS EASILY AS I DID BRUCE WAYNE.

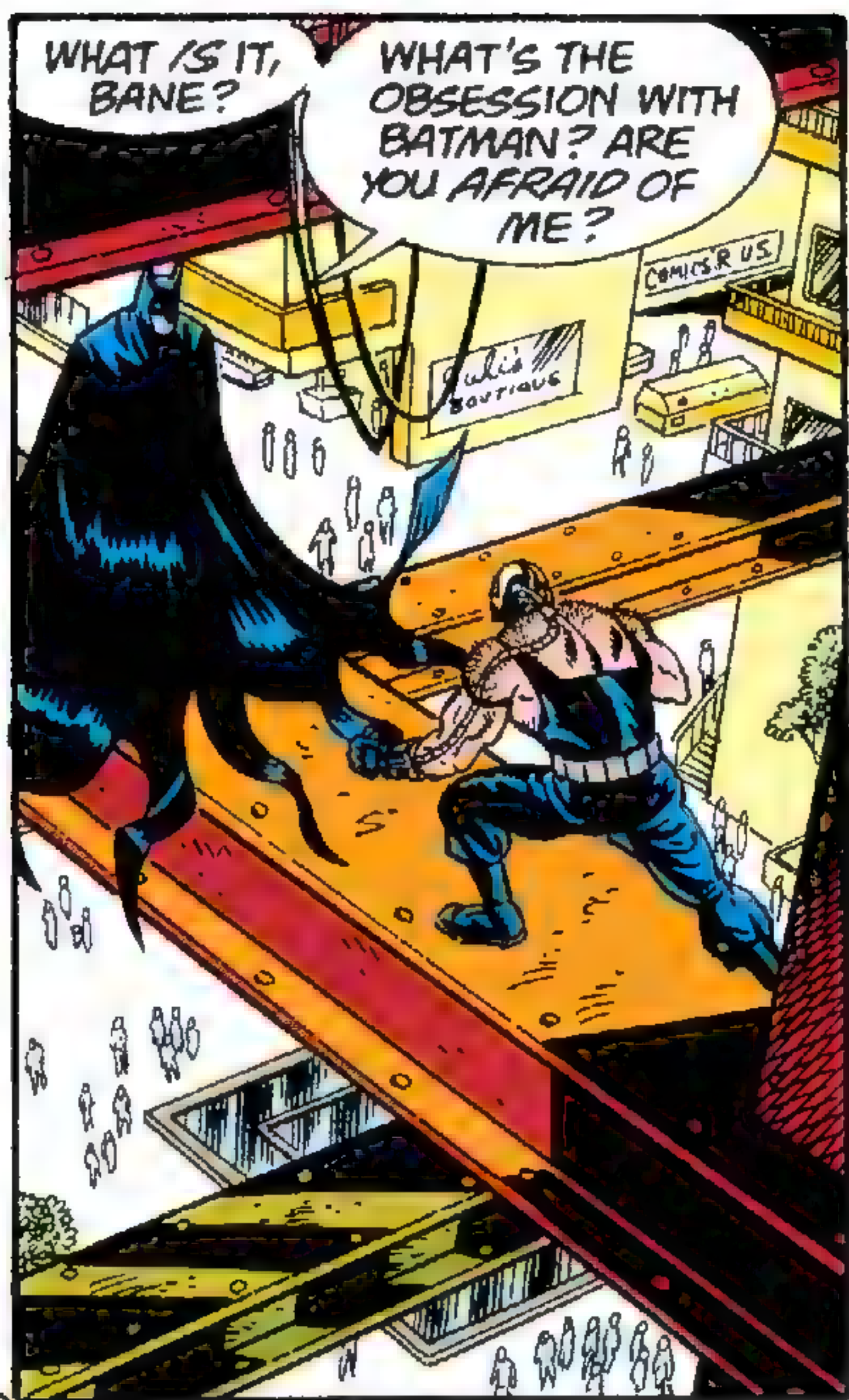
EASIER!











WHAT IS IT, BANE?

WHAT'S THE OBSESSION WITH BATMAN? ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME?



AS FAR AS I CAN TELL IT'S NOT A REVENGE THING. YOU'RE NEW TO GOTHAM. YOU HAVE NO HISTORY WITH WAYNE OR BATMAN.

BUT YOU'VE GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE.

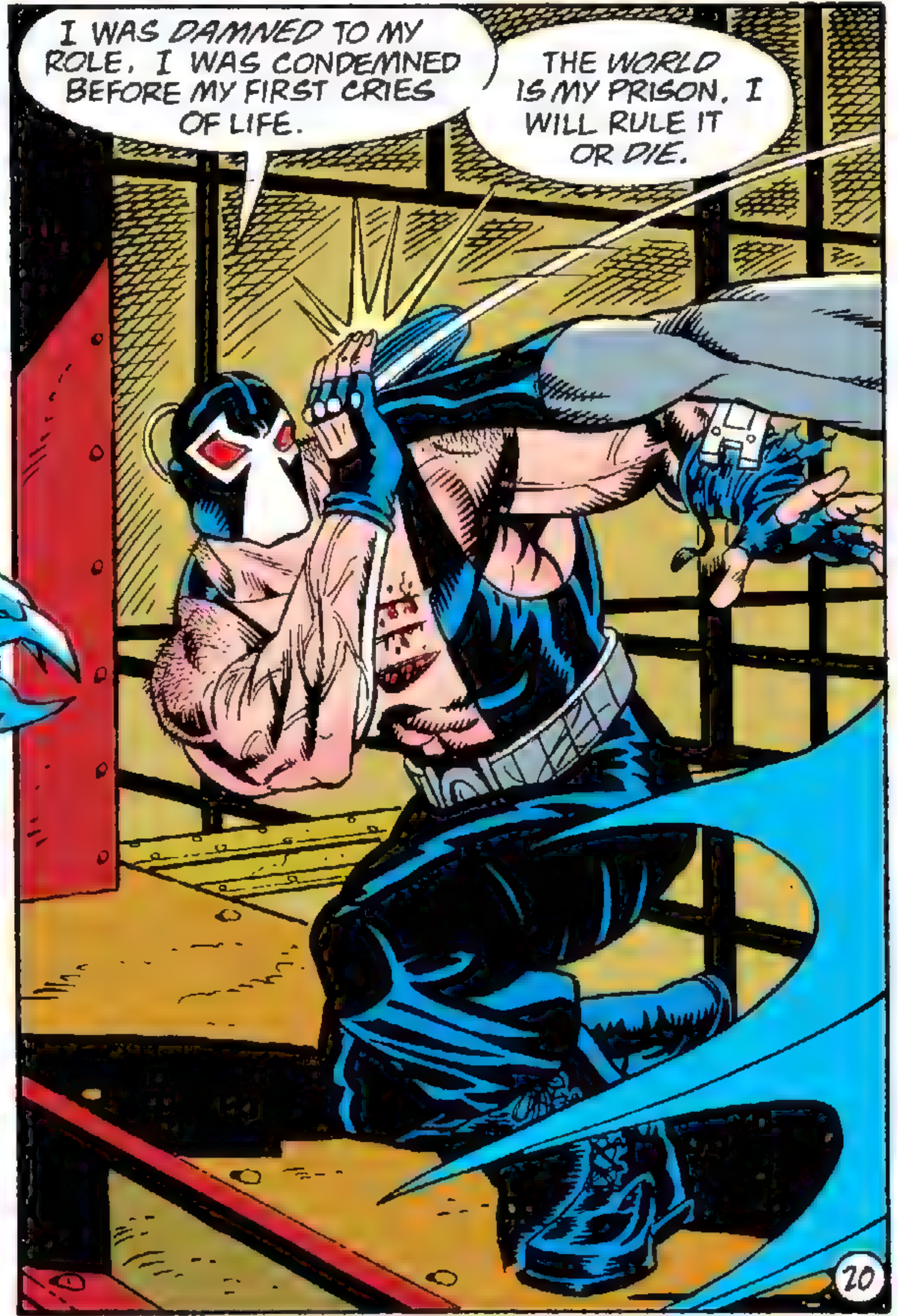
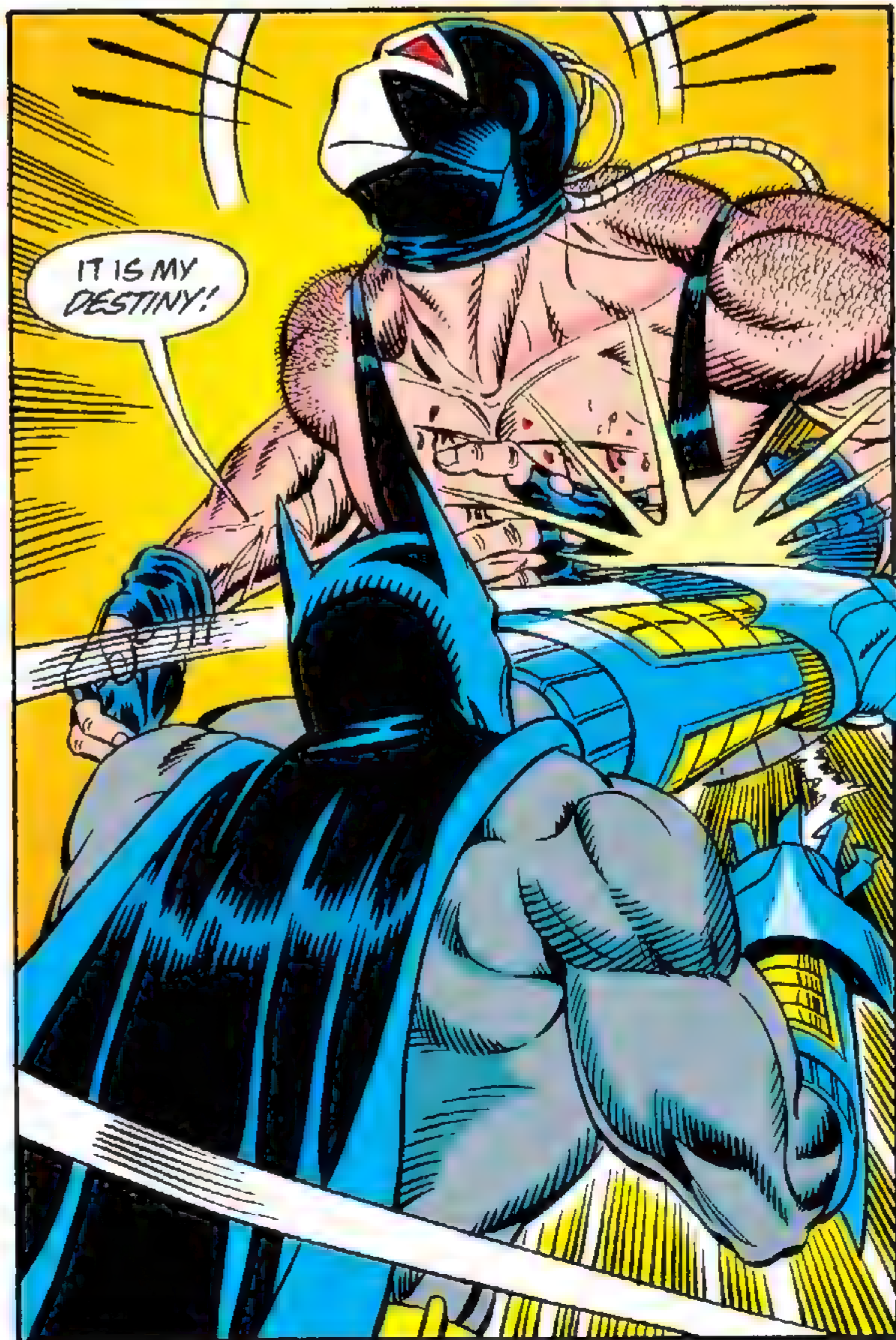
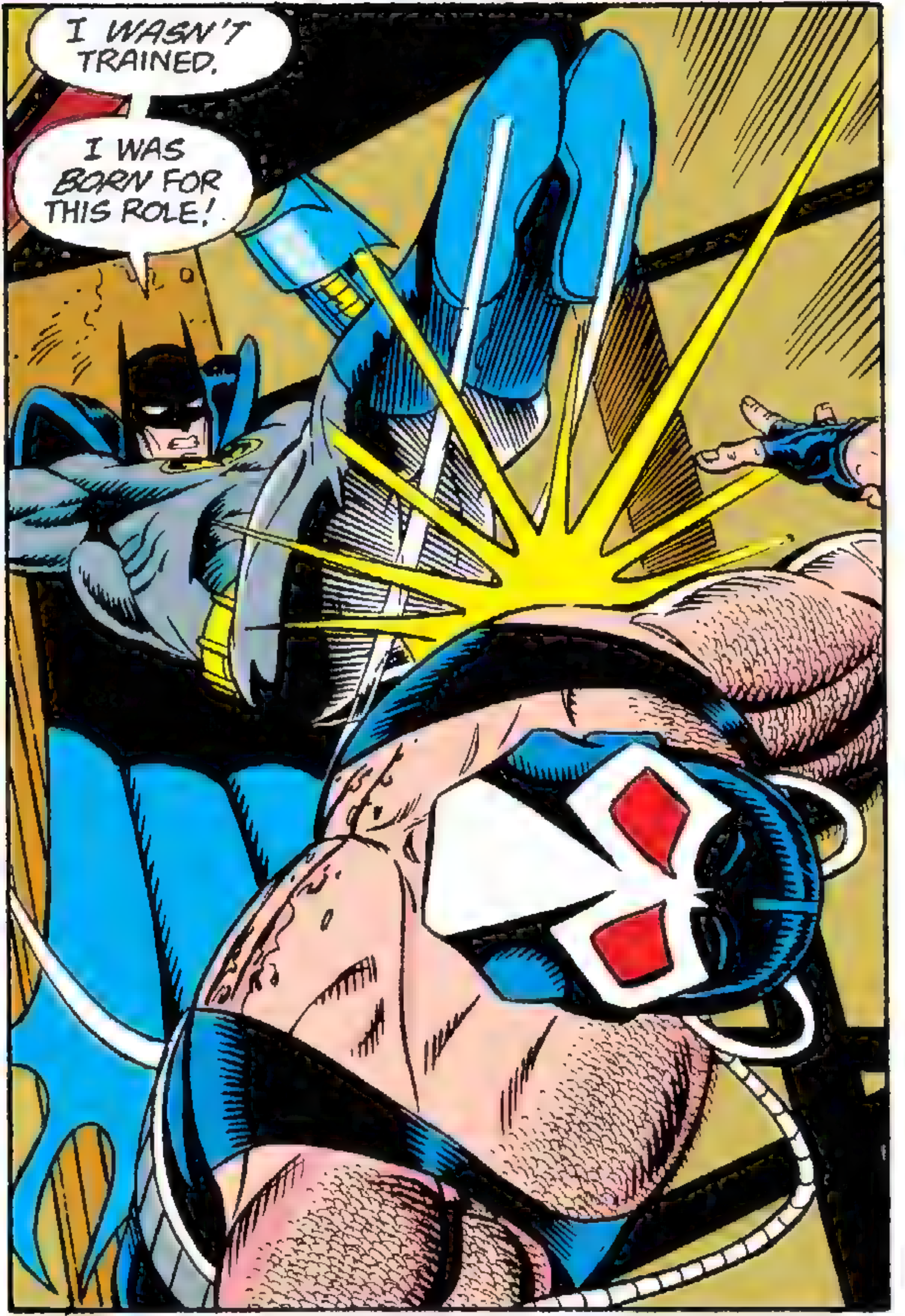
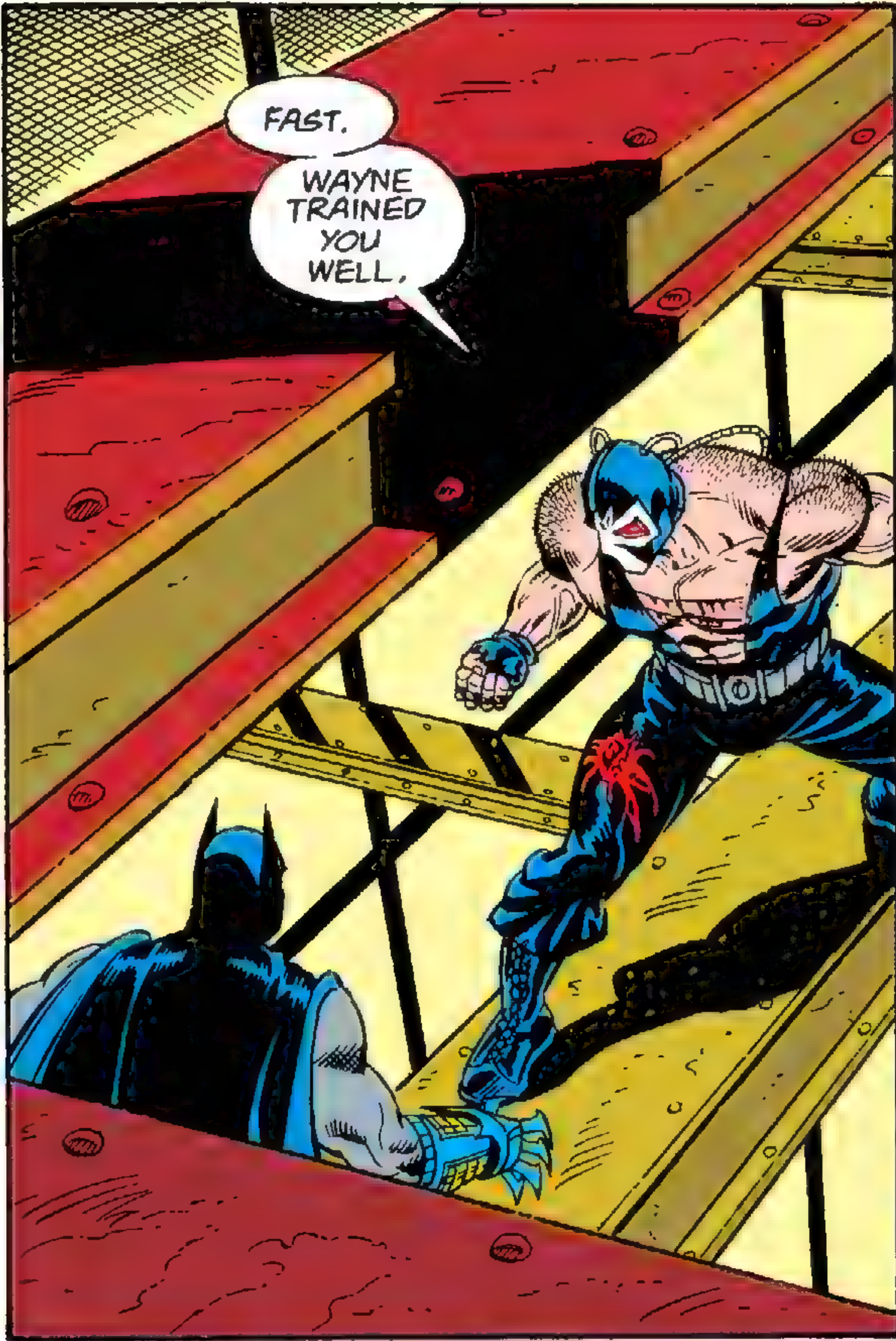
WHY?

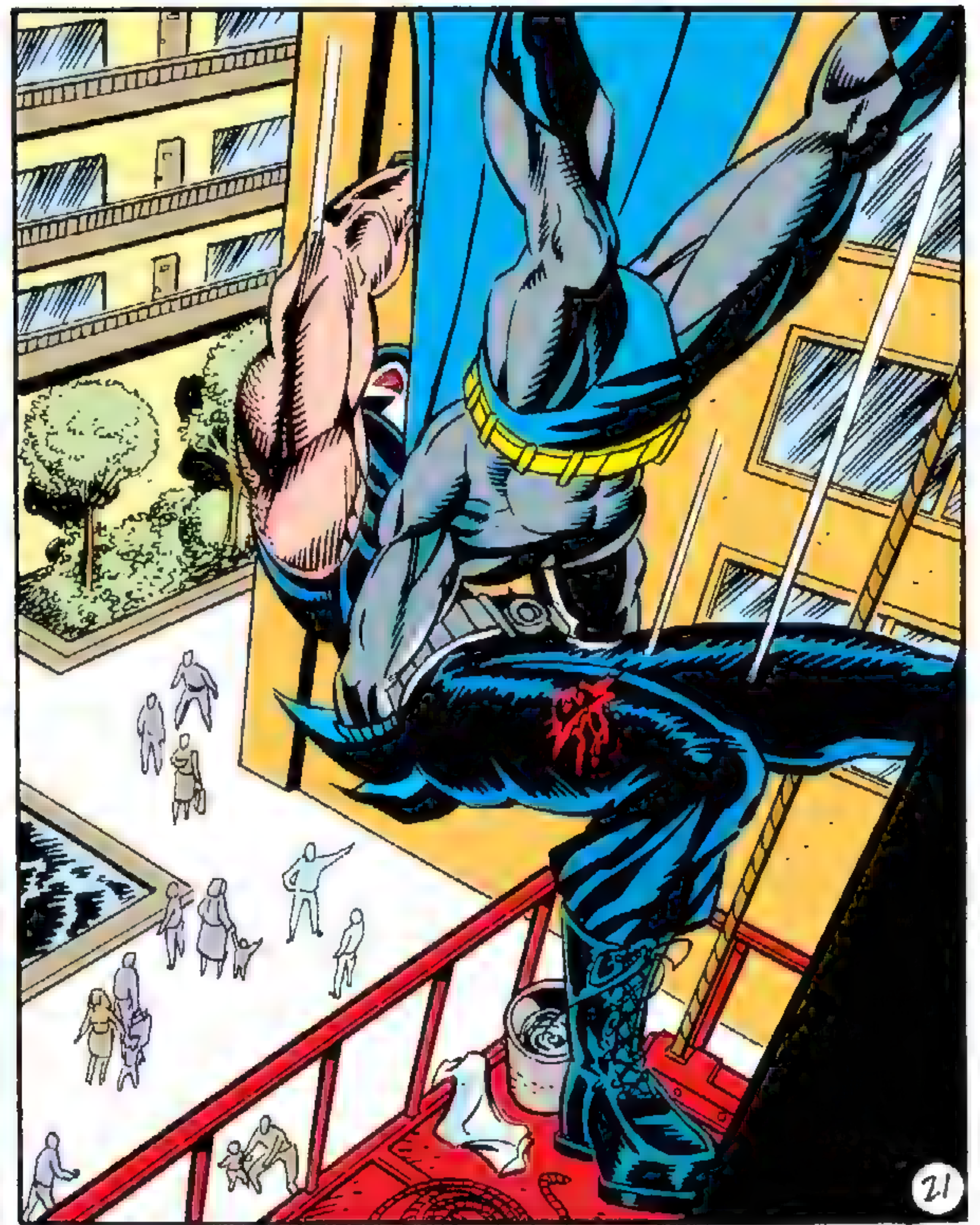
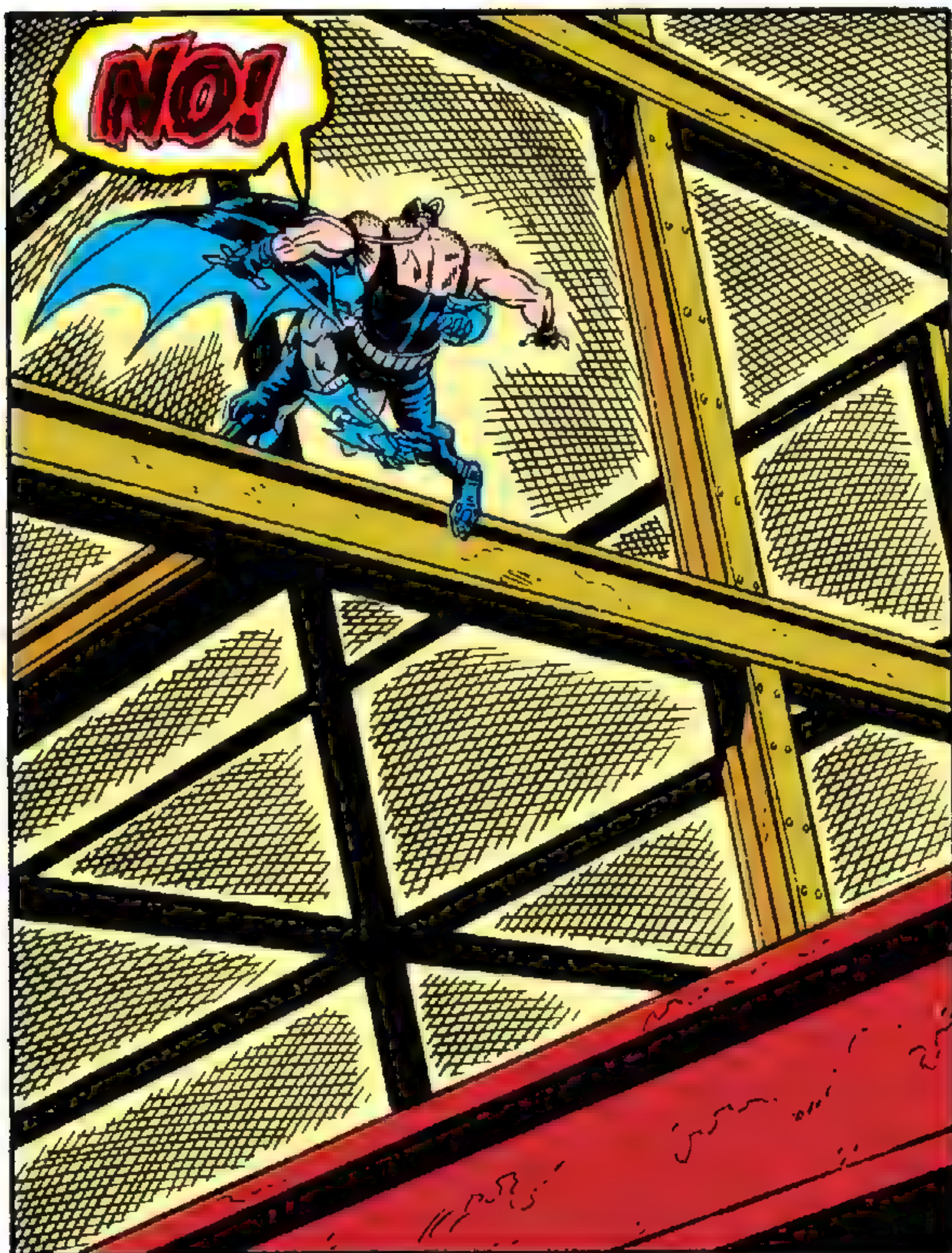
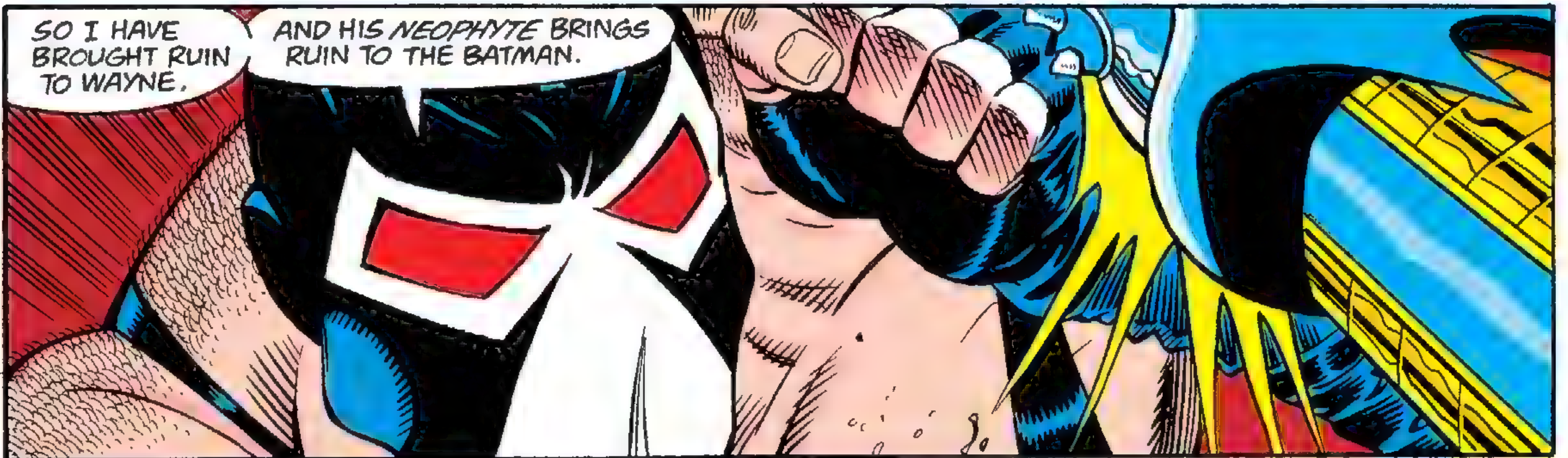
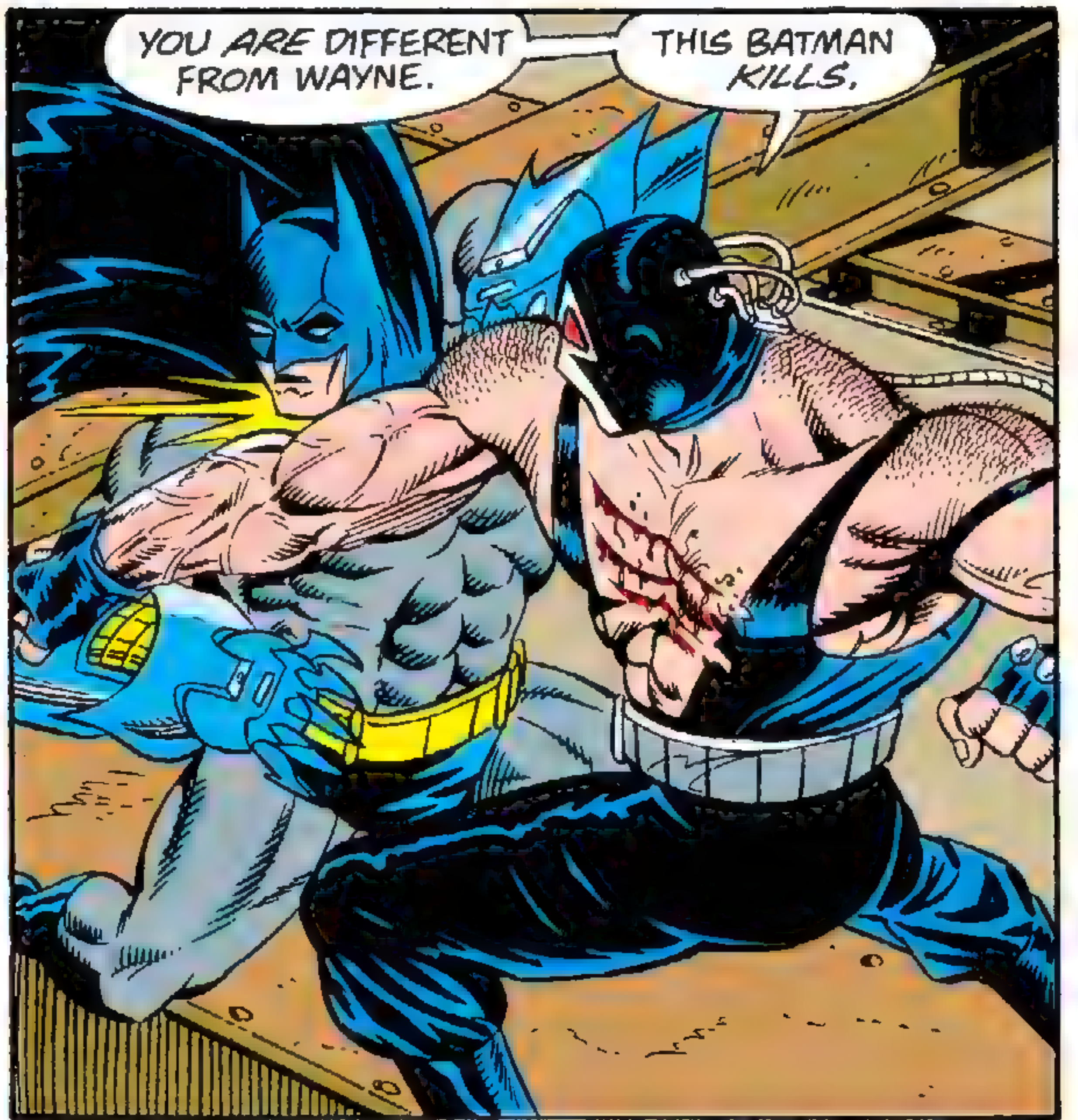
IT WAS ENOUGH FOR WAYNE TO KNOW THAT I WAS HIS OPPOSITE.

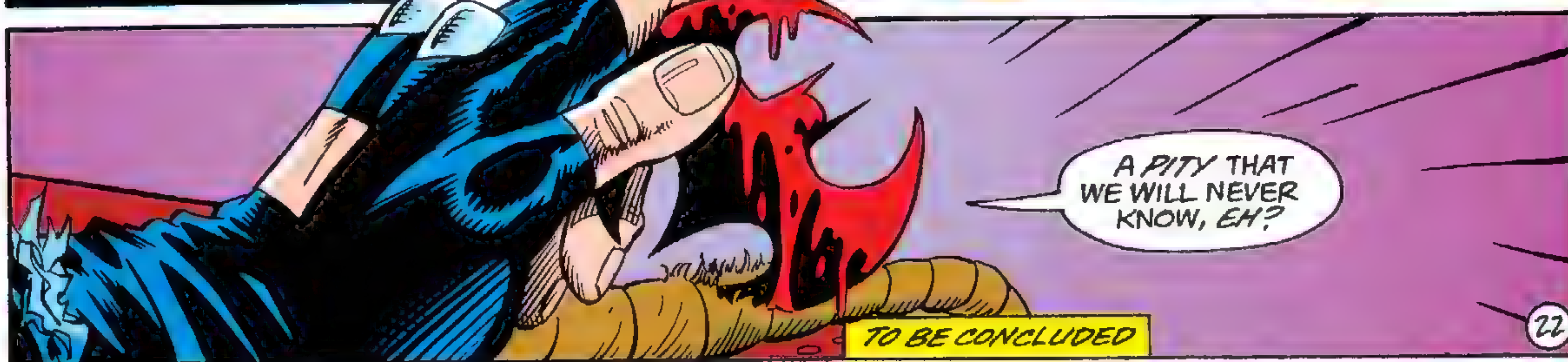
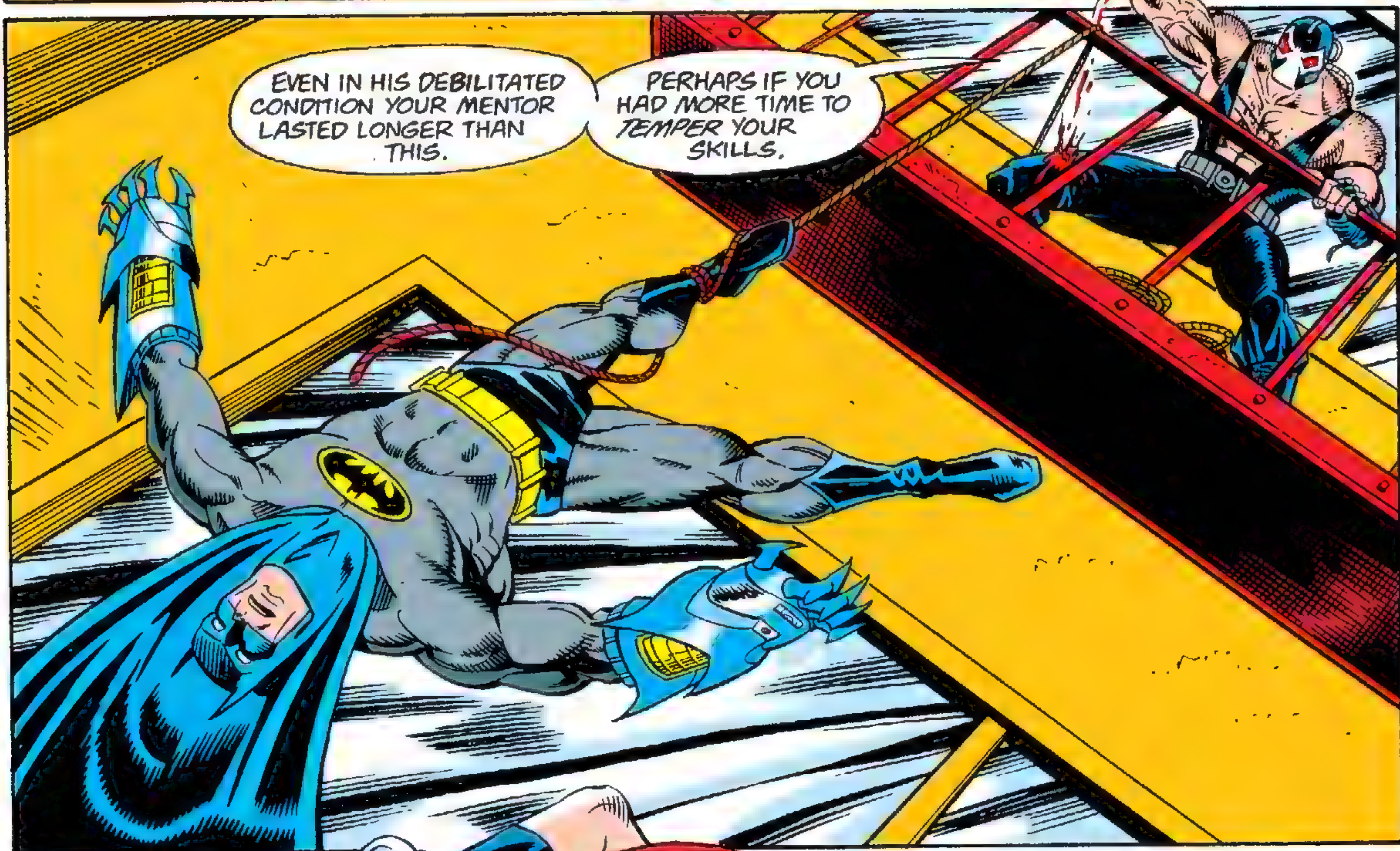
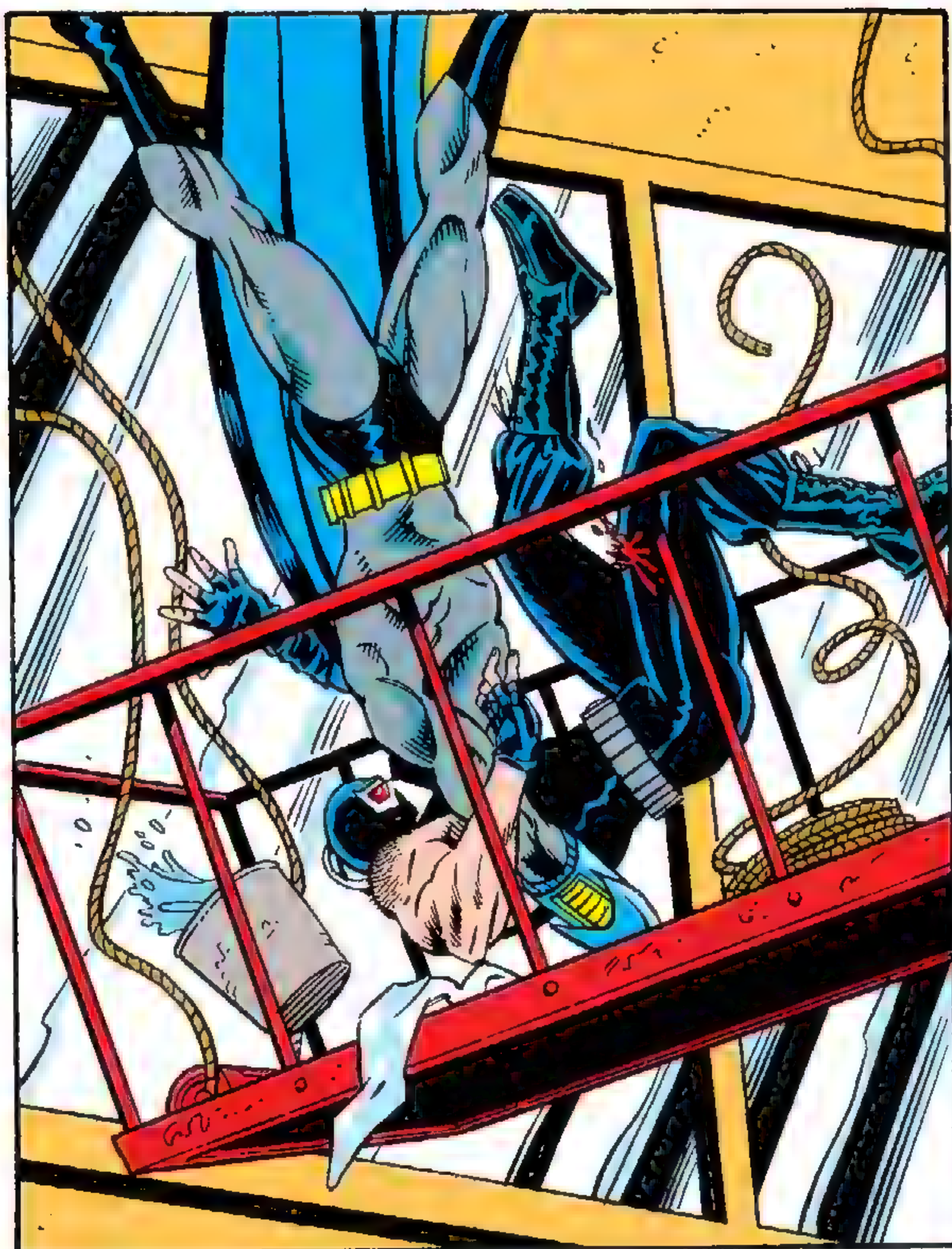
BUT YOU ARE A CURIOUS ONE, EH?



YOU CAN BARK YOUR QUESTIONS IN HELL!







KNIGHTFALL

19



BATMAN
500
OCT 93

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

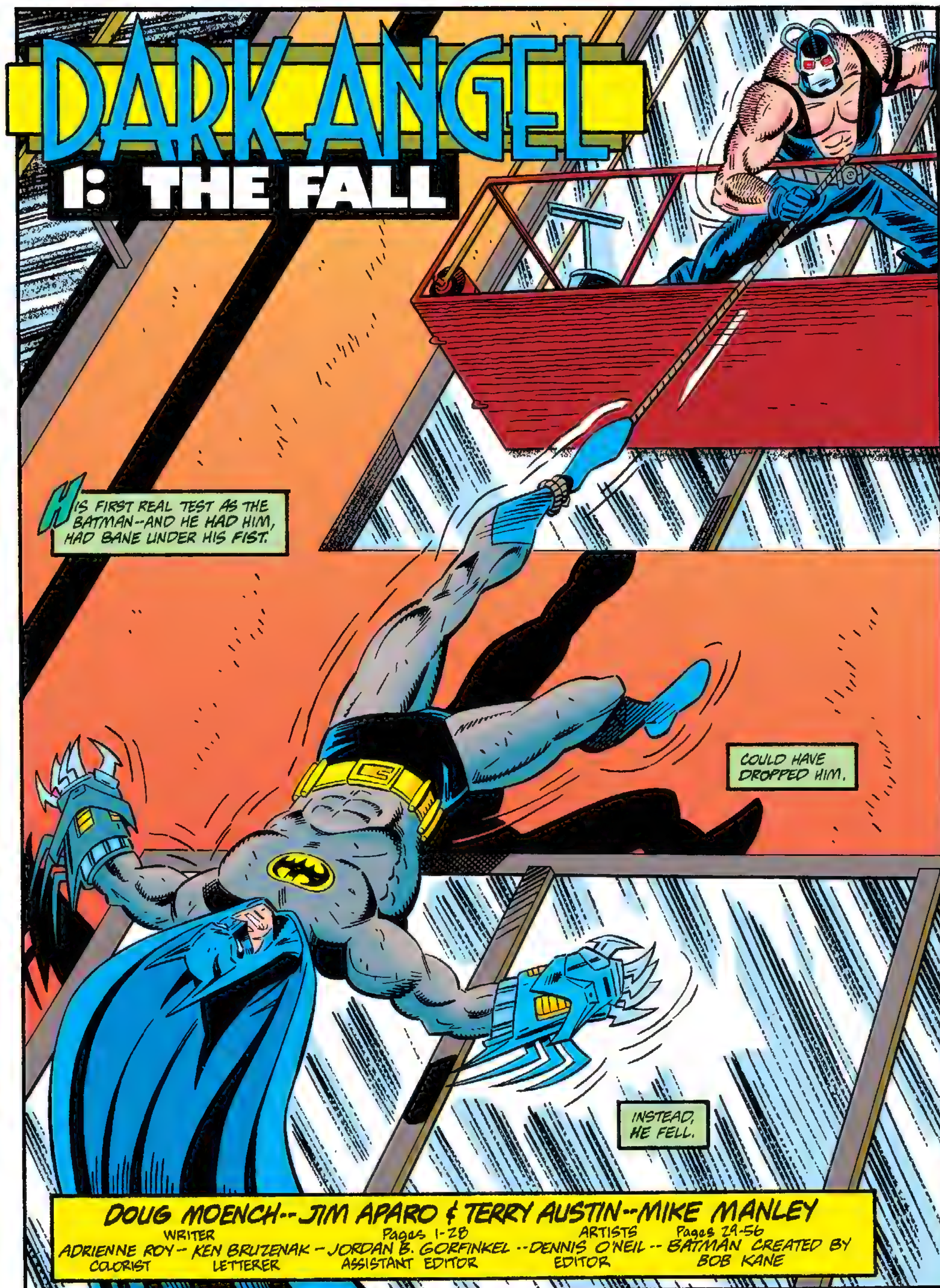
BATMAN



KEVIN
JONES '93



Cover art by
KELLEY JONES

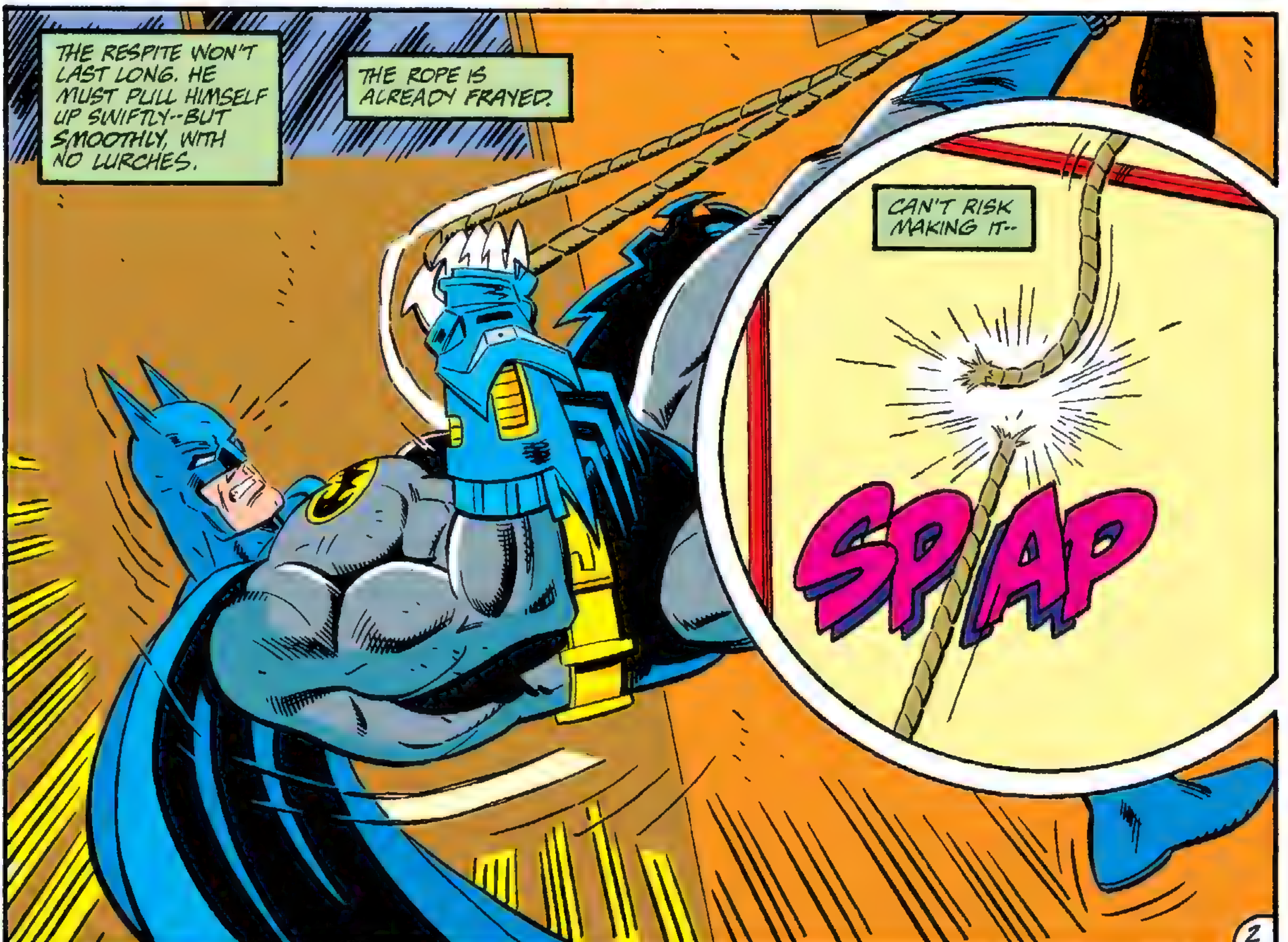
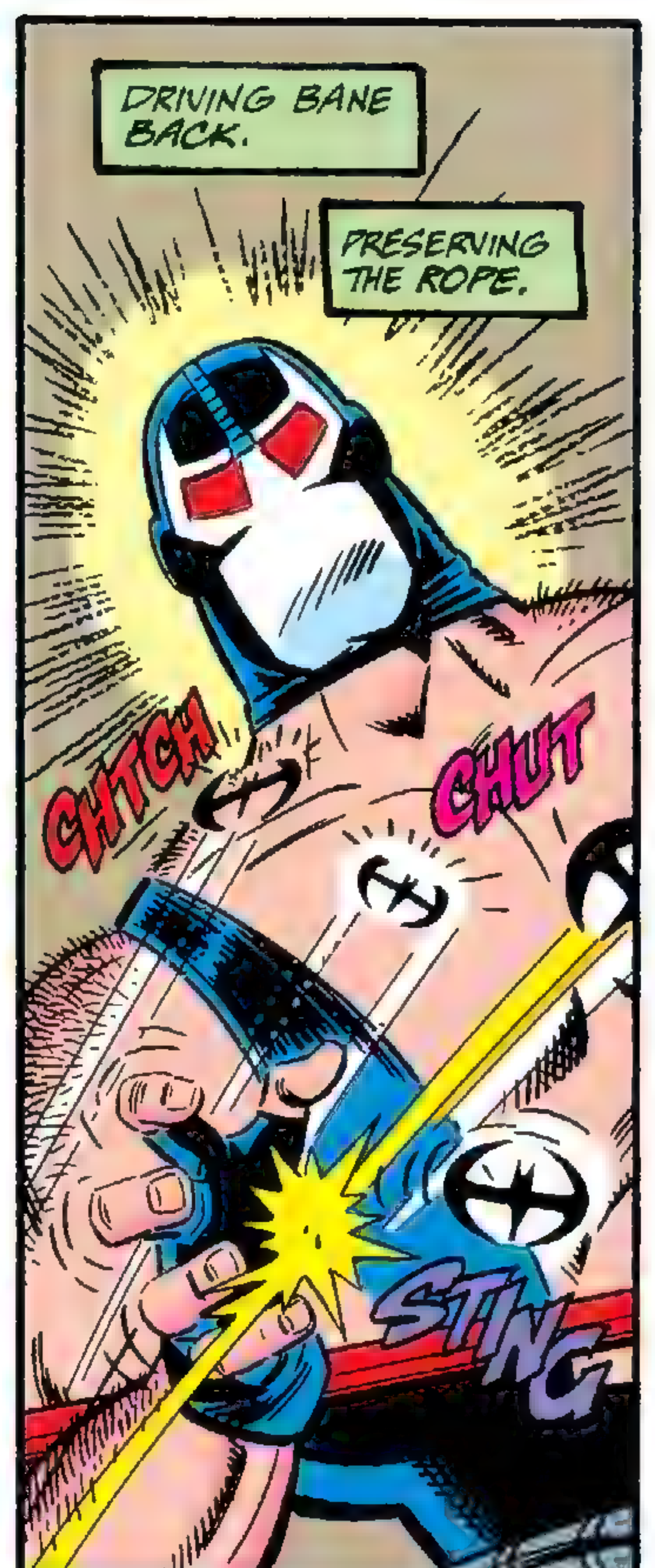
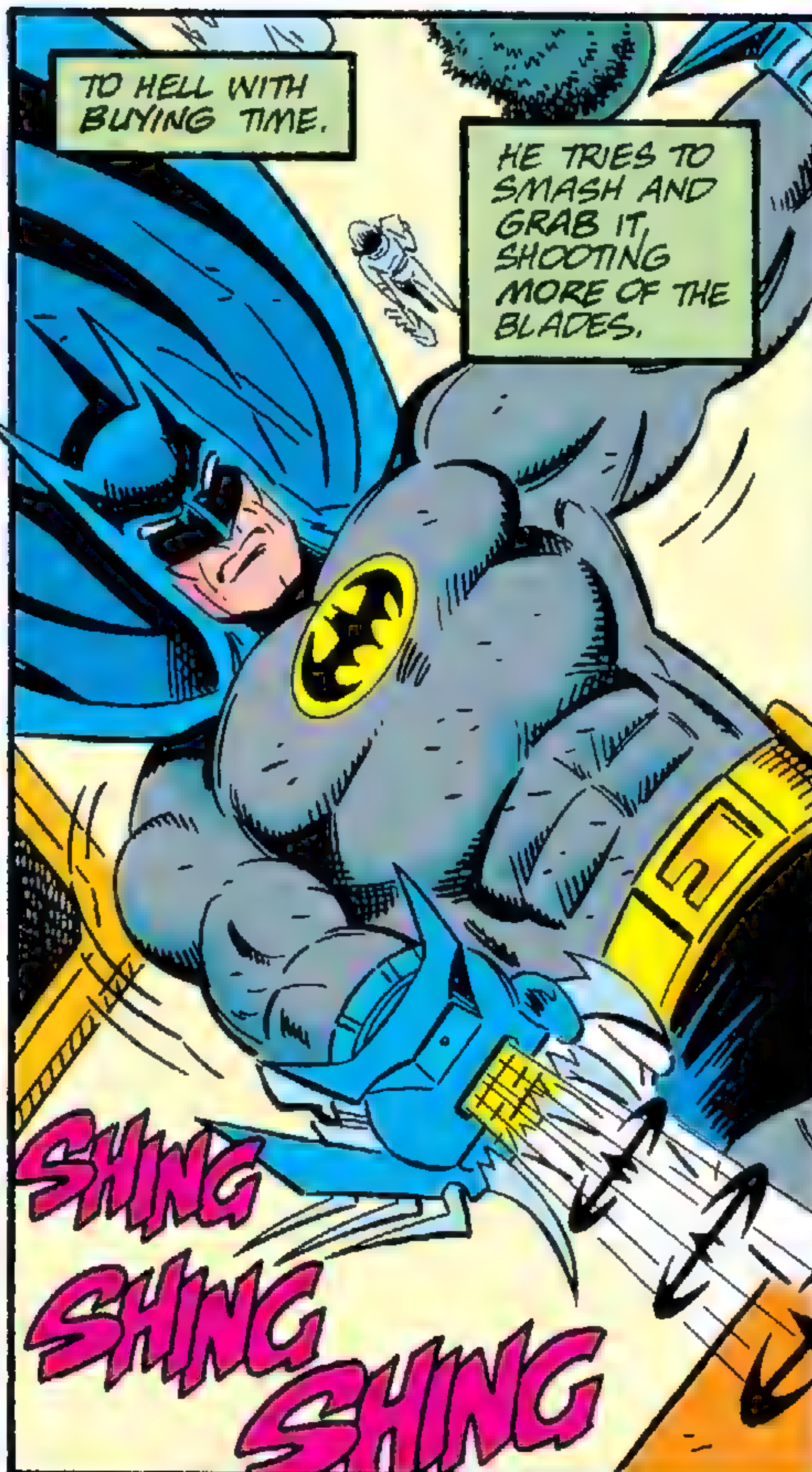
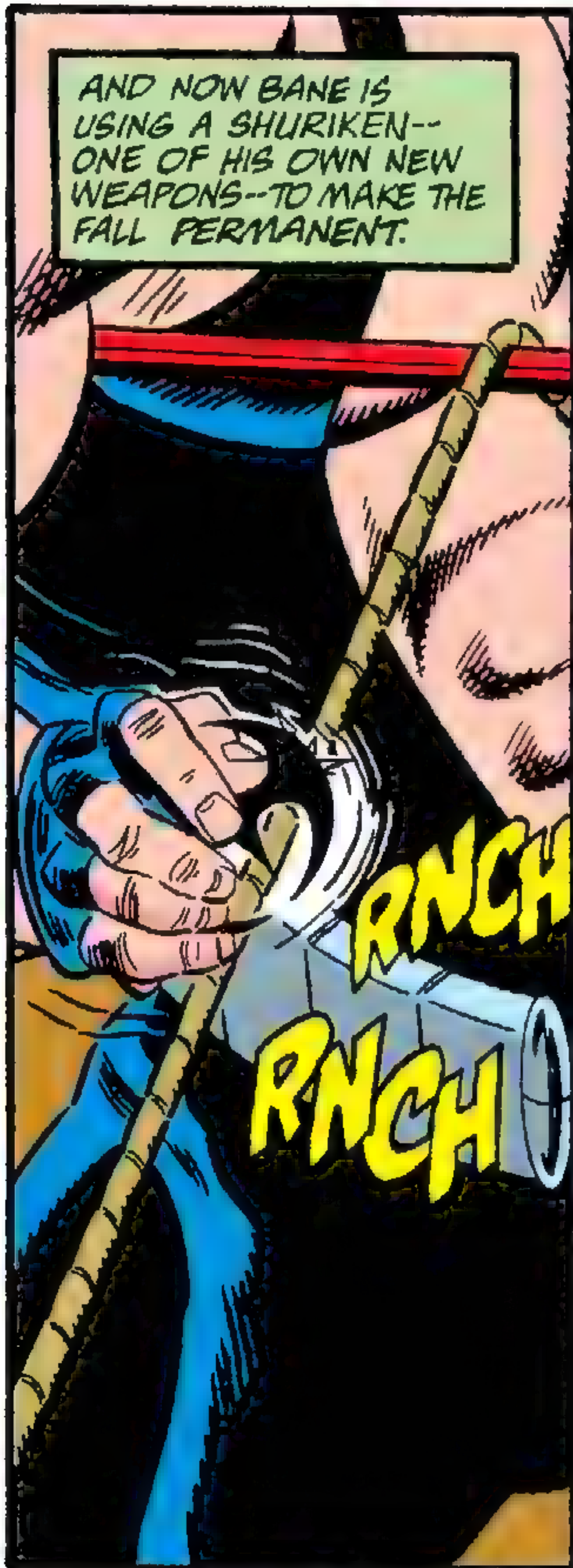


HIS FIRST REAL TEST AS THE BATMAN--AND HE HAD HIM, HAD BANE UNDER HIS FIST.

COULD HAVE DROPPED HIM.

INSTEAD, HE FELL.

DOUG MOENCH--JIM APARO & TERRY AUSTIN--MIKE MANLEY
WRITER Pages 1-28 ARTISTS Pages 29-56
ADRIENNE ROY--KEN BRUZENAK--JORDAN B. GORFINKEL--DENNIS O'NEIL--BATMAN CREATED BY
COLORIST LETTERER ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR BOB KANE



SEVERED, THE ROPE
IS USELESS.

HE KICKS
IT FREE.

ABOVE, BANE THINKS
HE IS DEAD.

HRHHH!

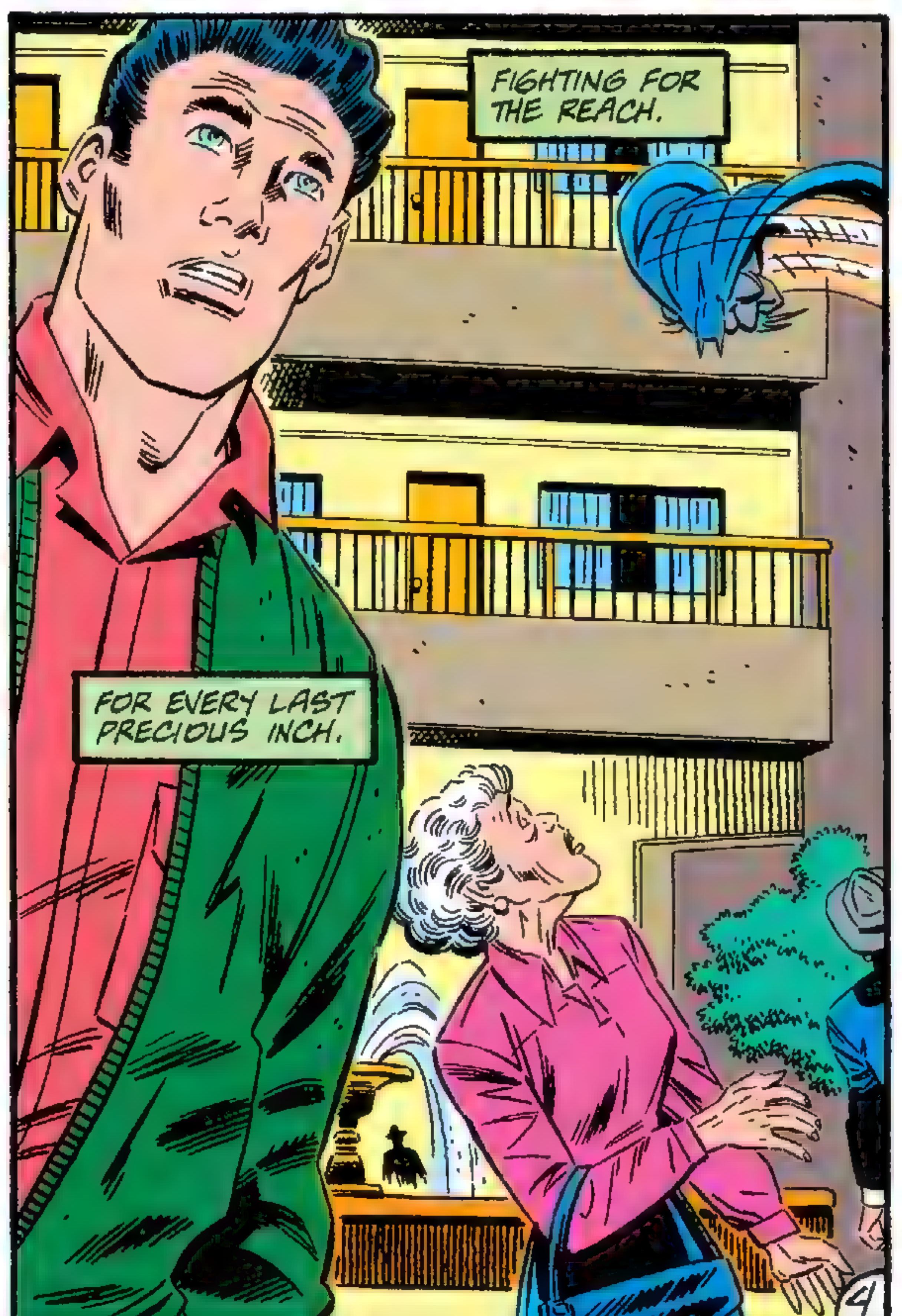
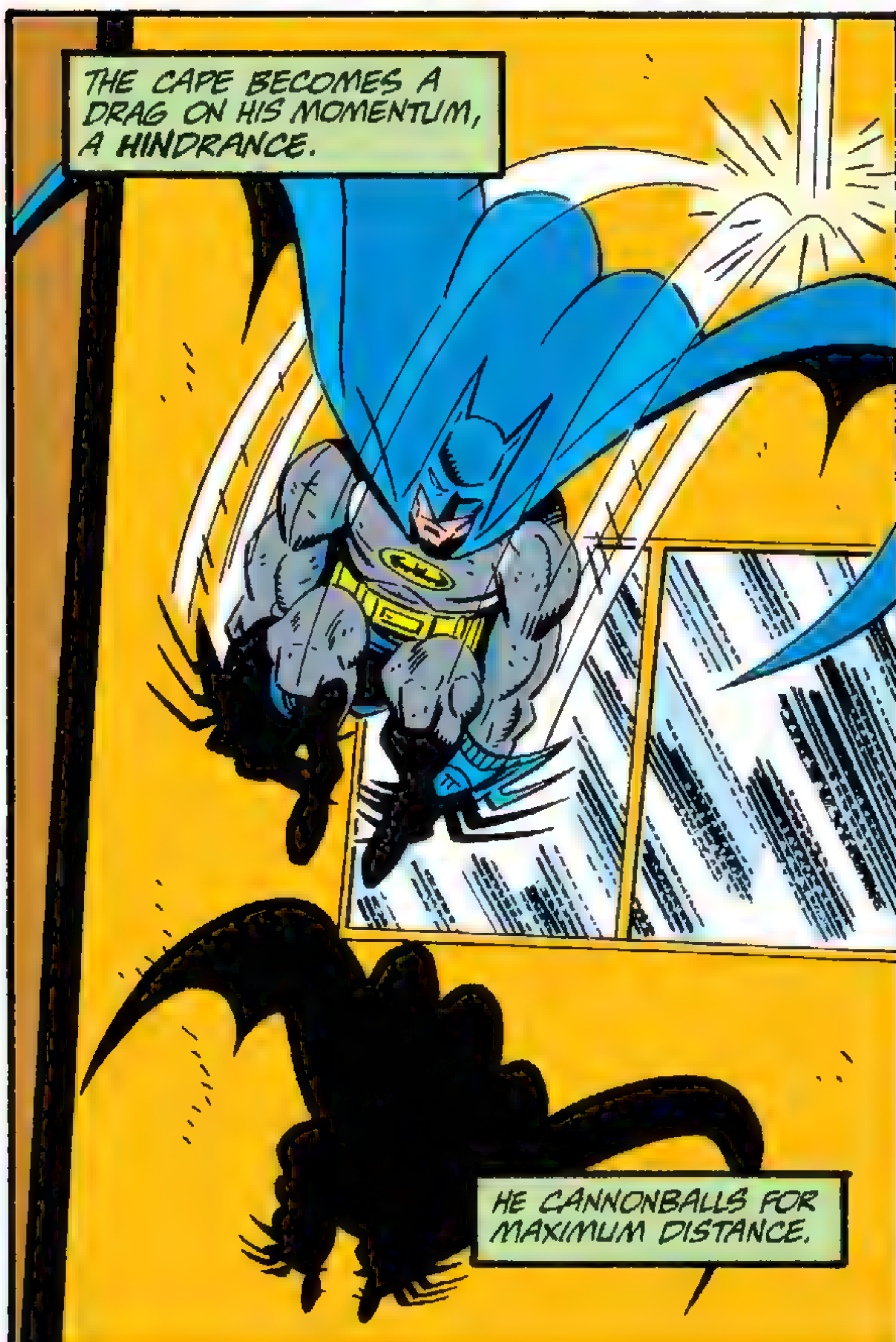
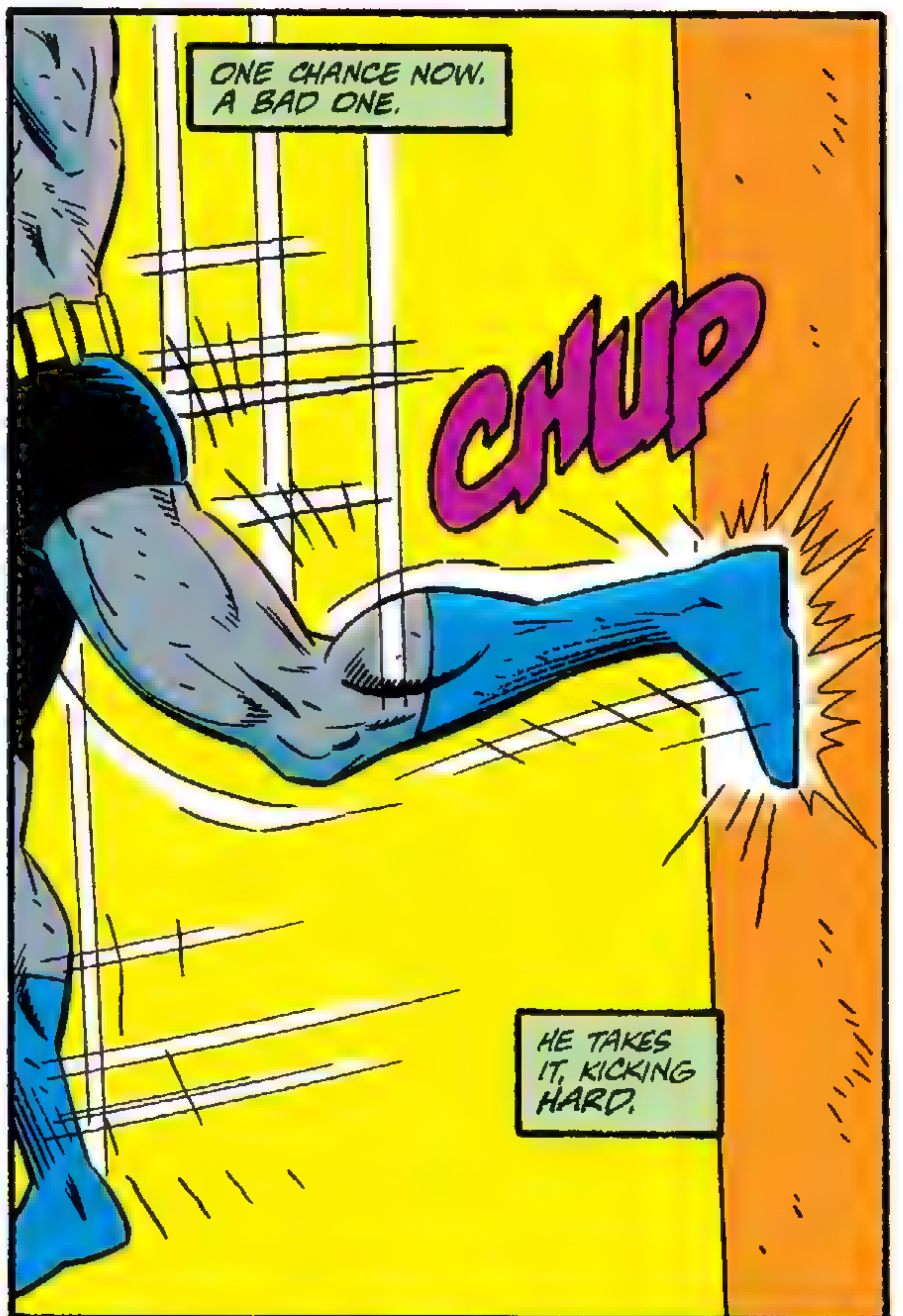
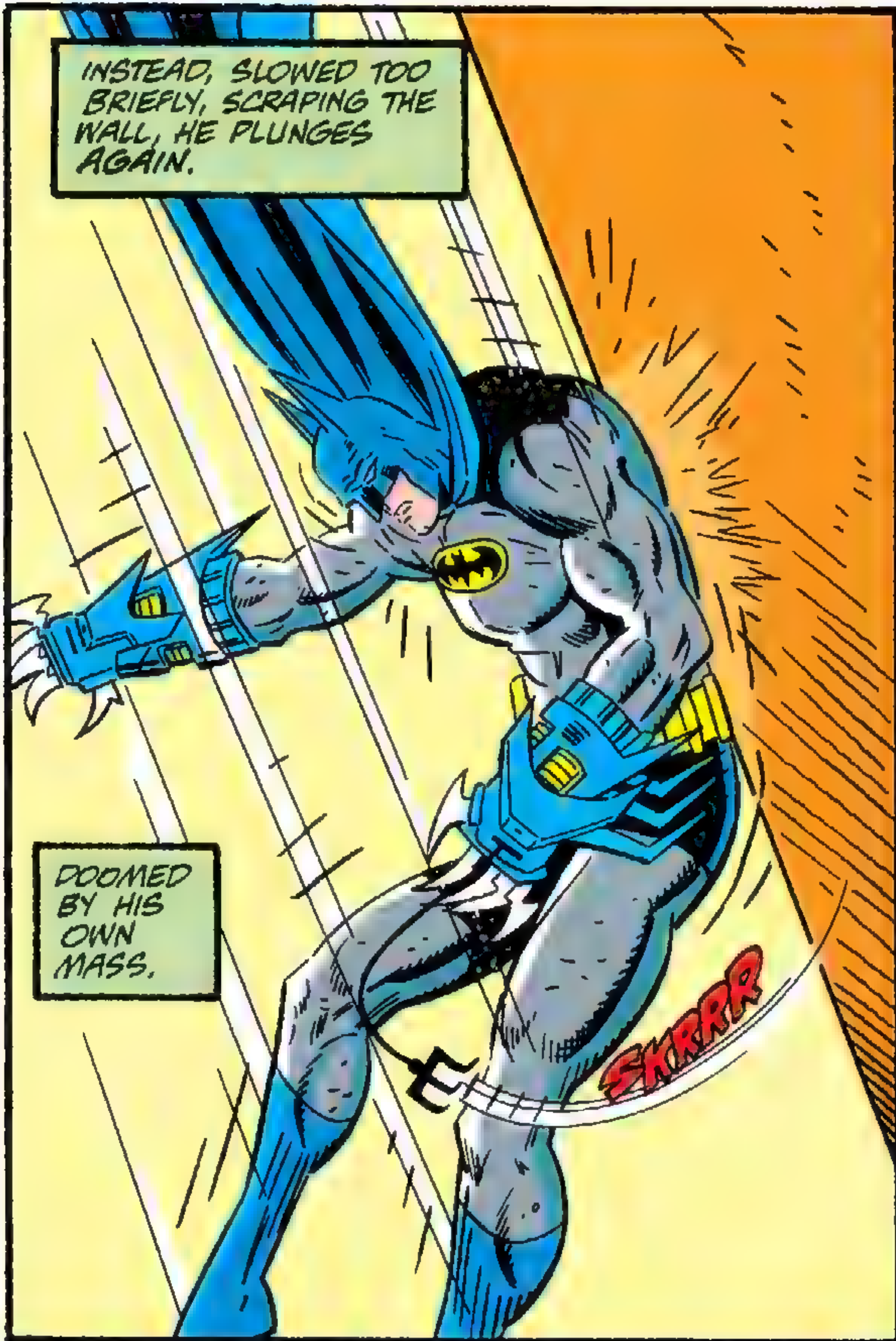
AND WITH NO SECURE
PURCHASE FOR HIS
GRAPNEL, IT WOULD BE
HARD TO ARGUE.

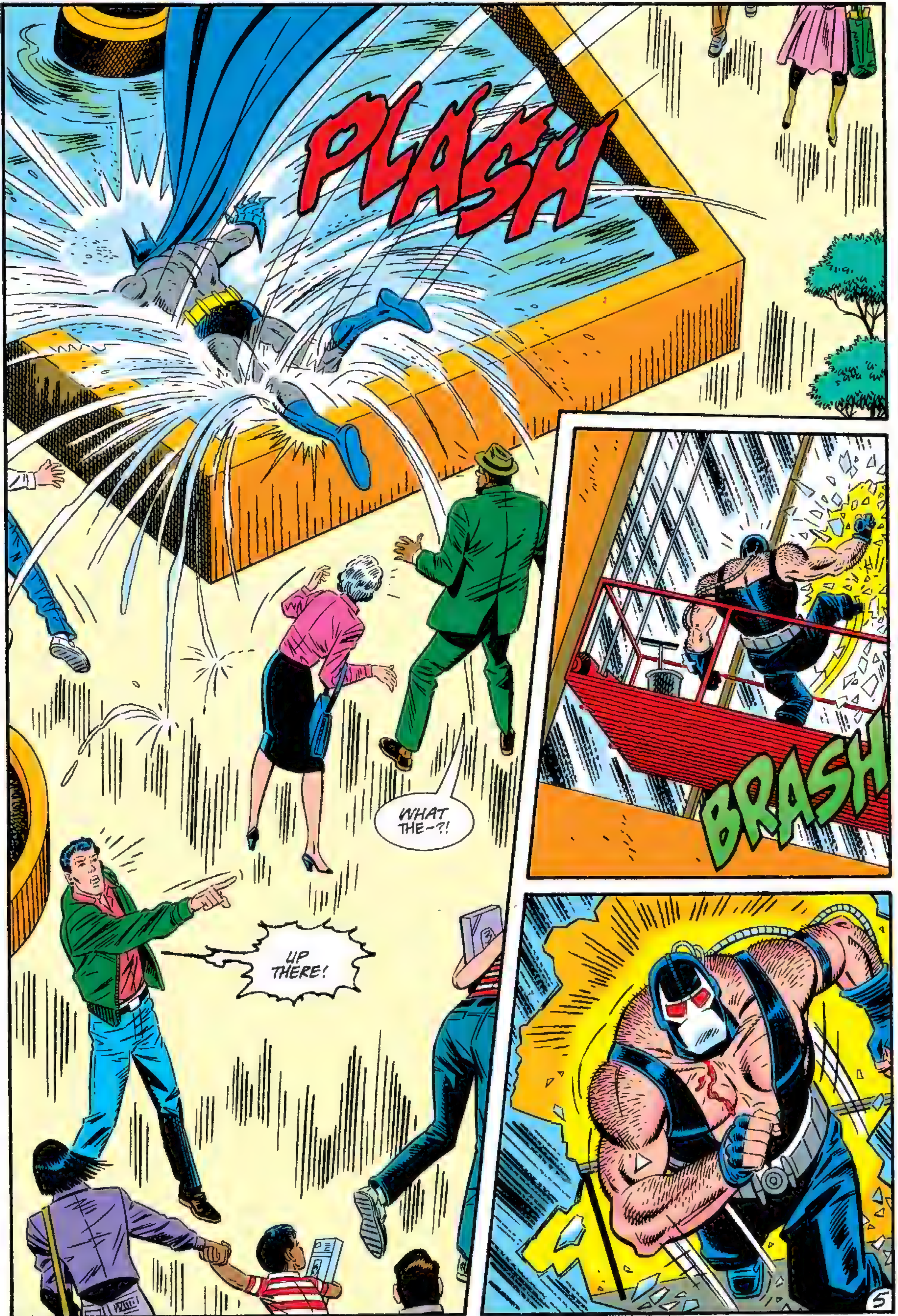
CHF
HE SHOOTS FOR
LIFE ANYWAY.

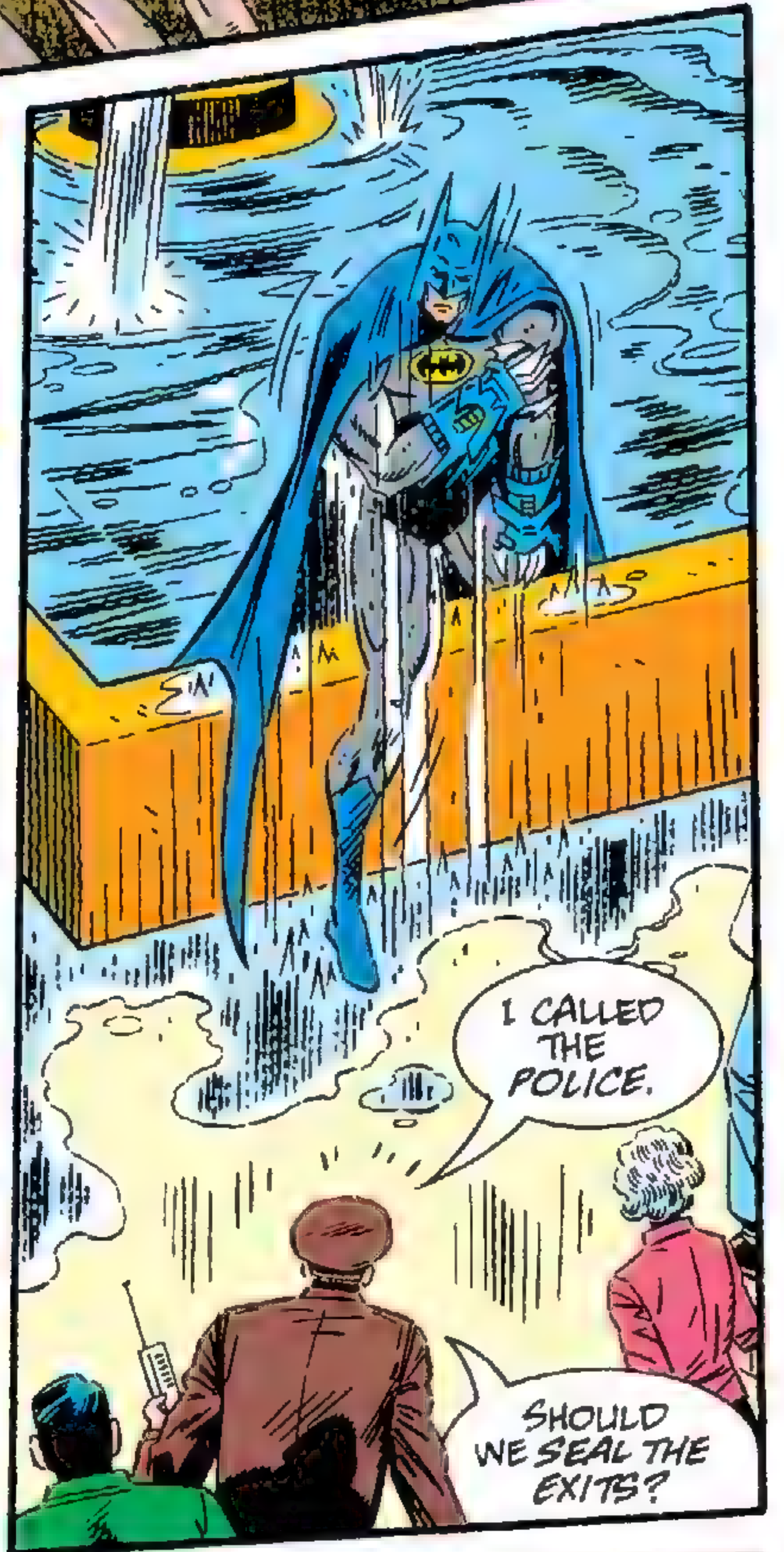
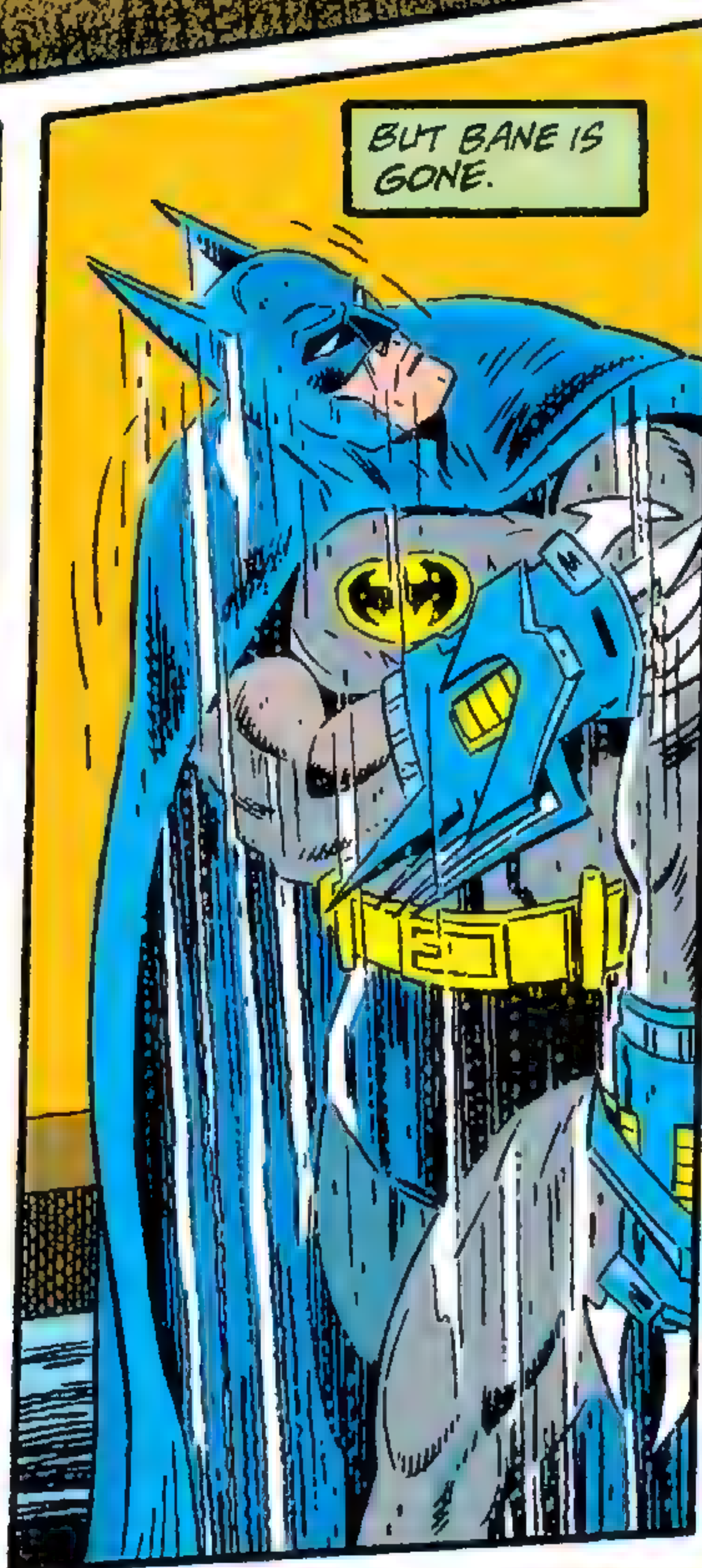
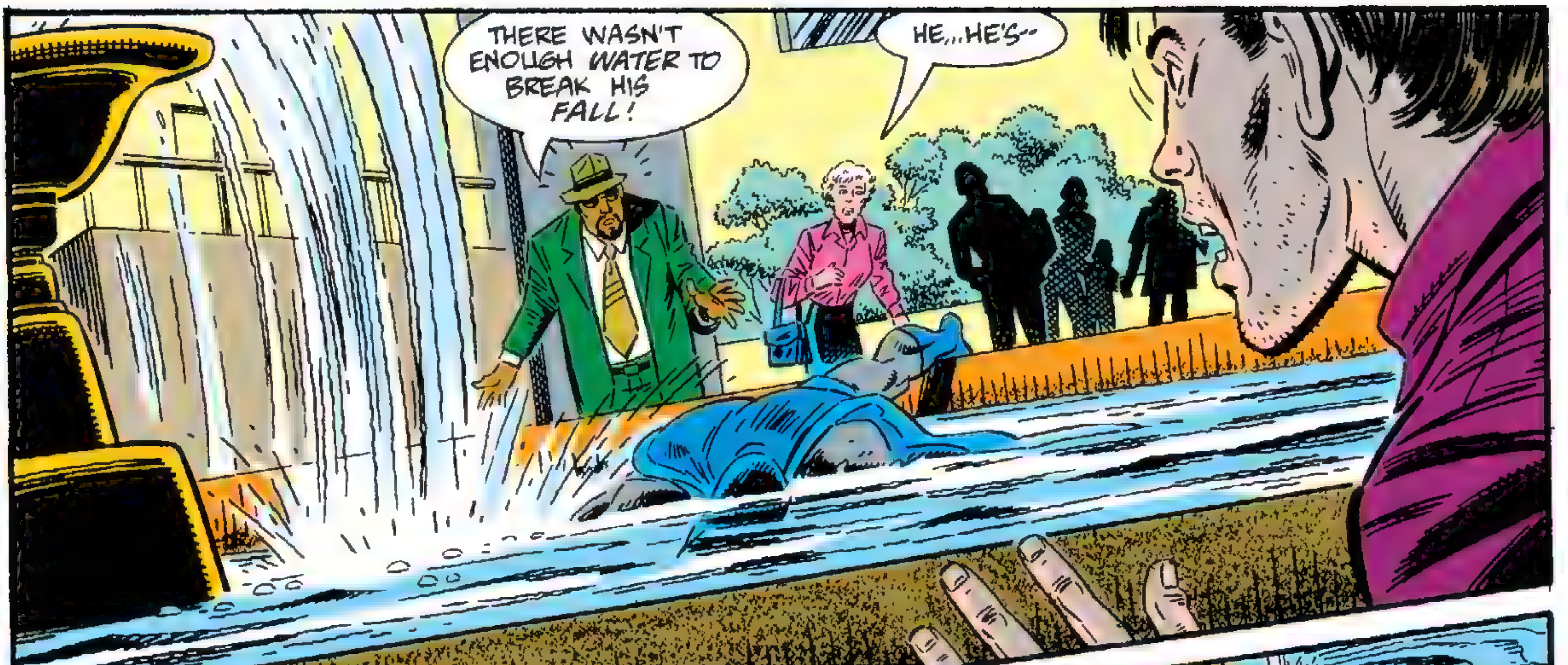
THE GRAPNEL
CATCHES POORLY,
AS EXPECTED, AND
EVEN AS THE BREATH
IS SLAMMED FROM
HIS BODY--

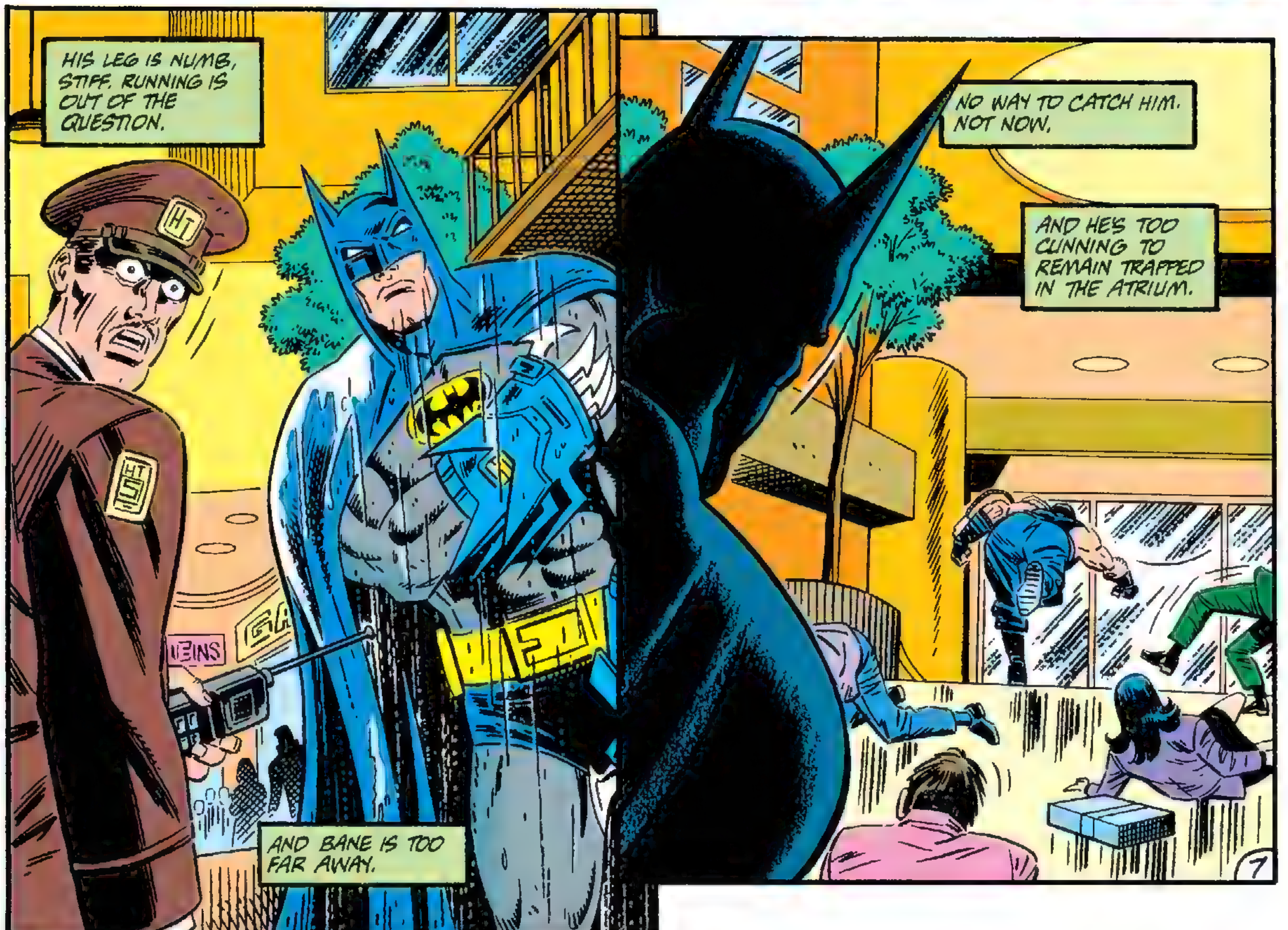
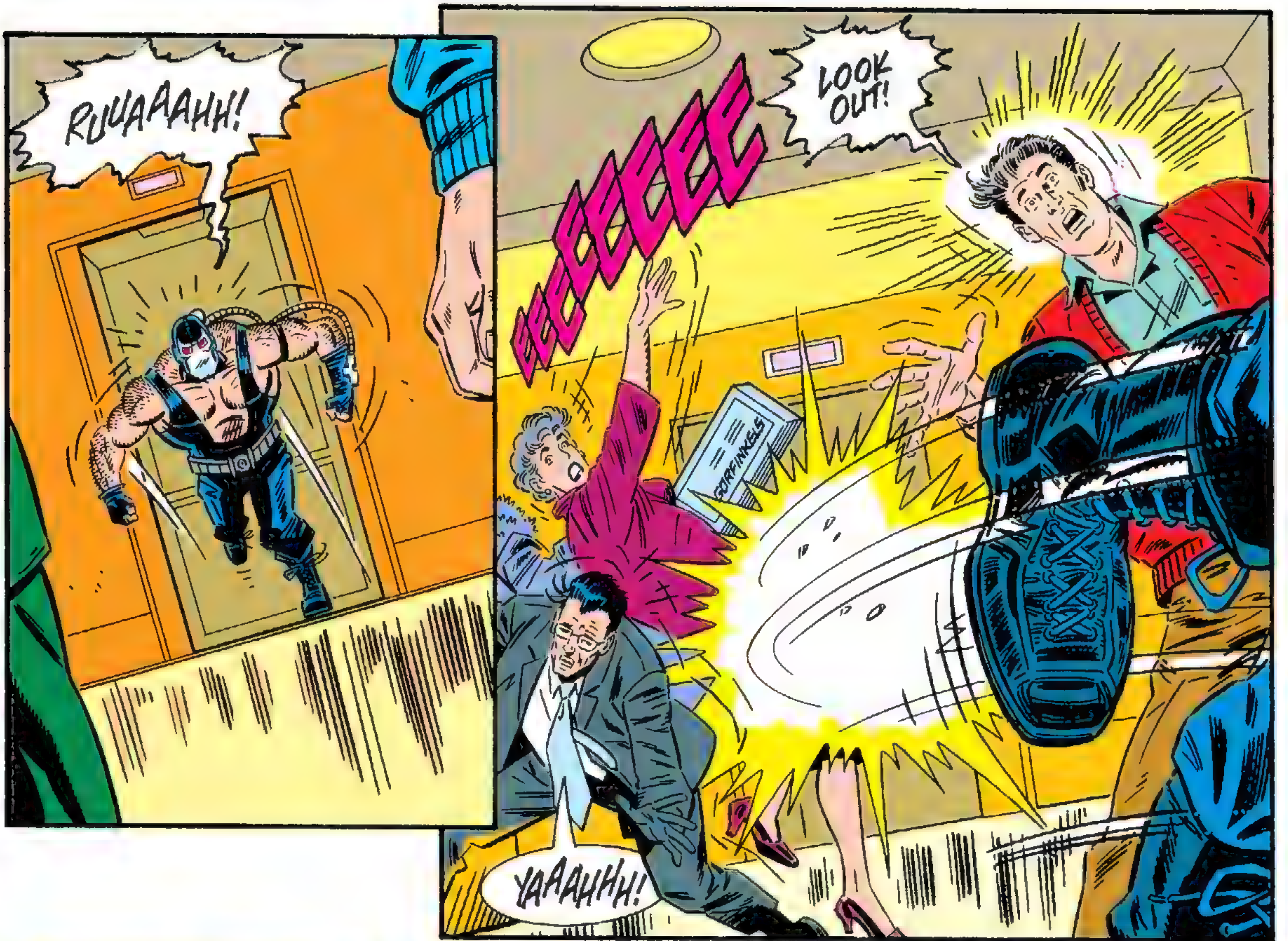
WUMPT
-HE FEELS THE
LINE SLACKEN
IN HIS
GRASP.

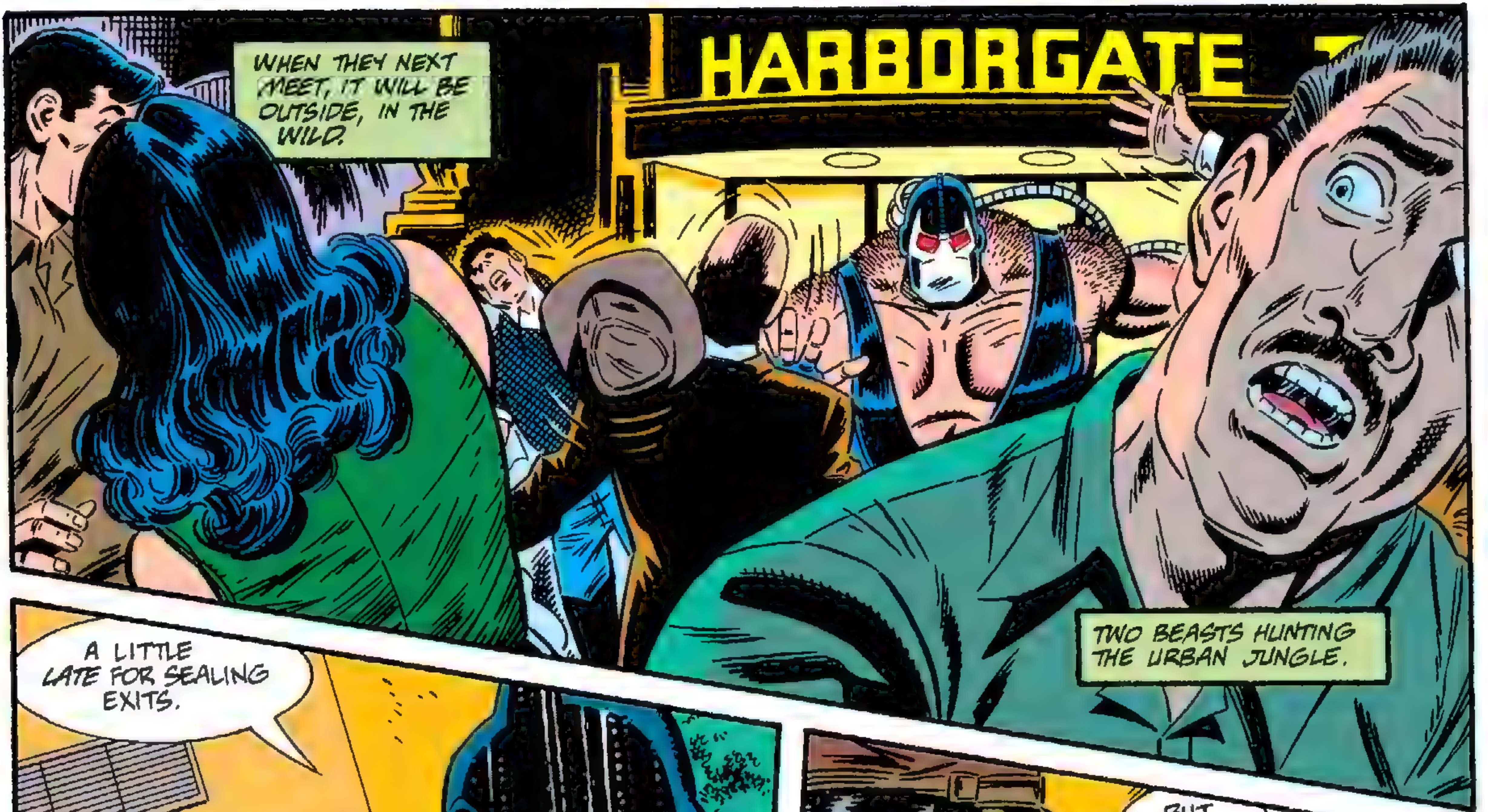
SKRIKT
HE WISHES HE
COULD FLY.



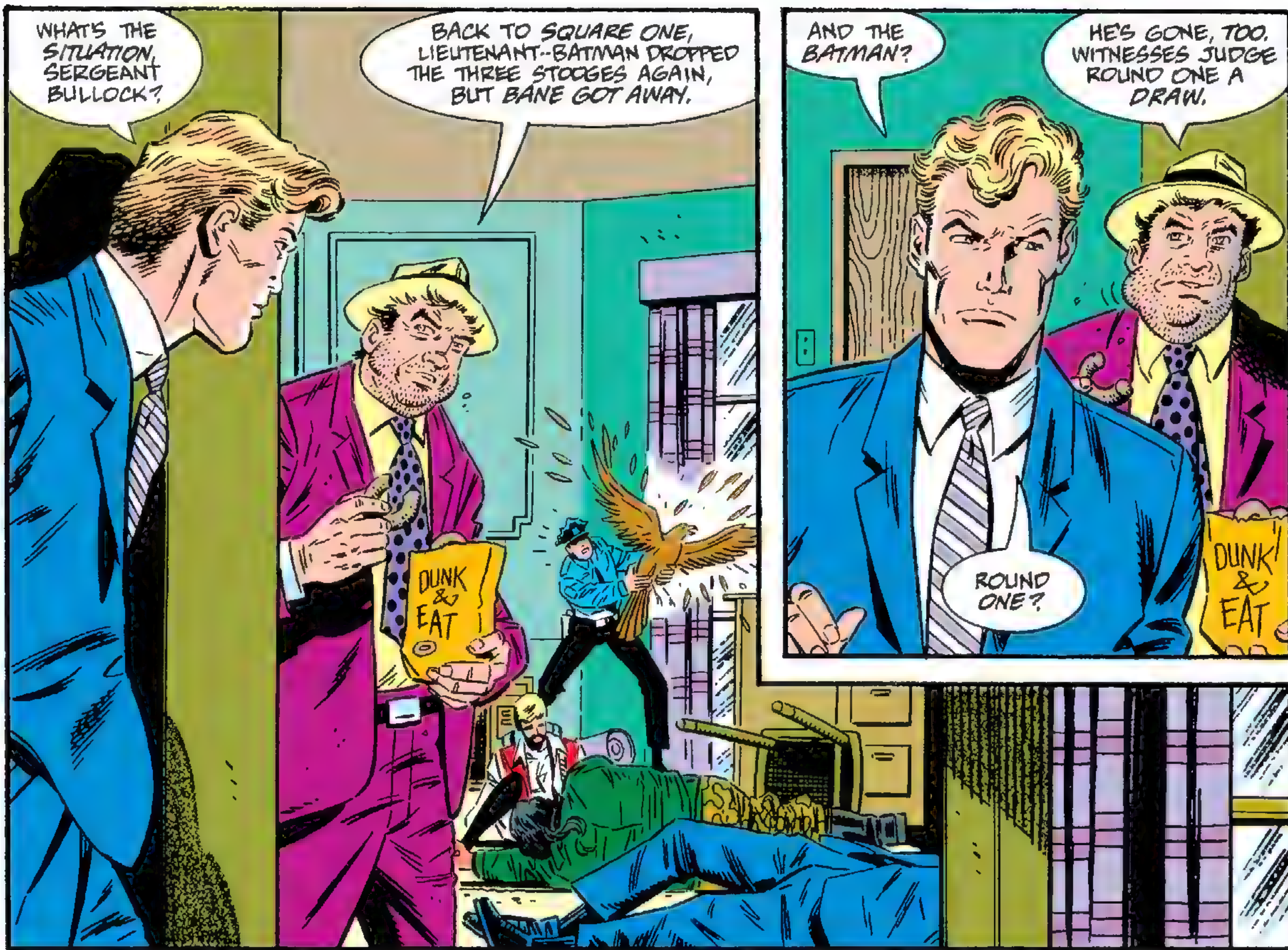


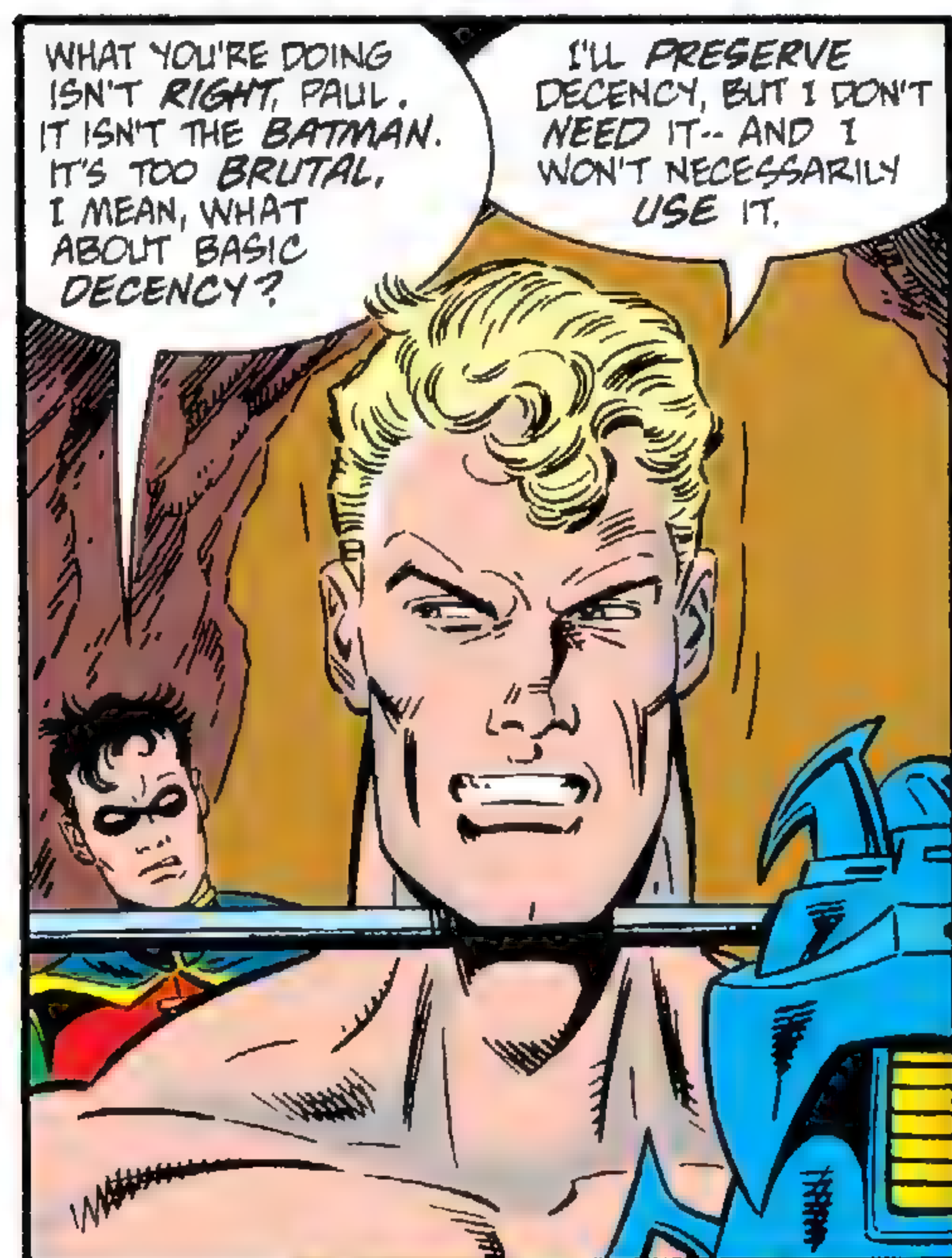
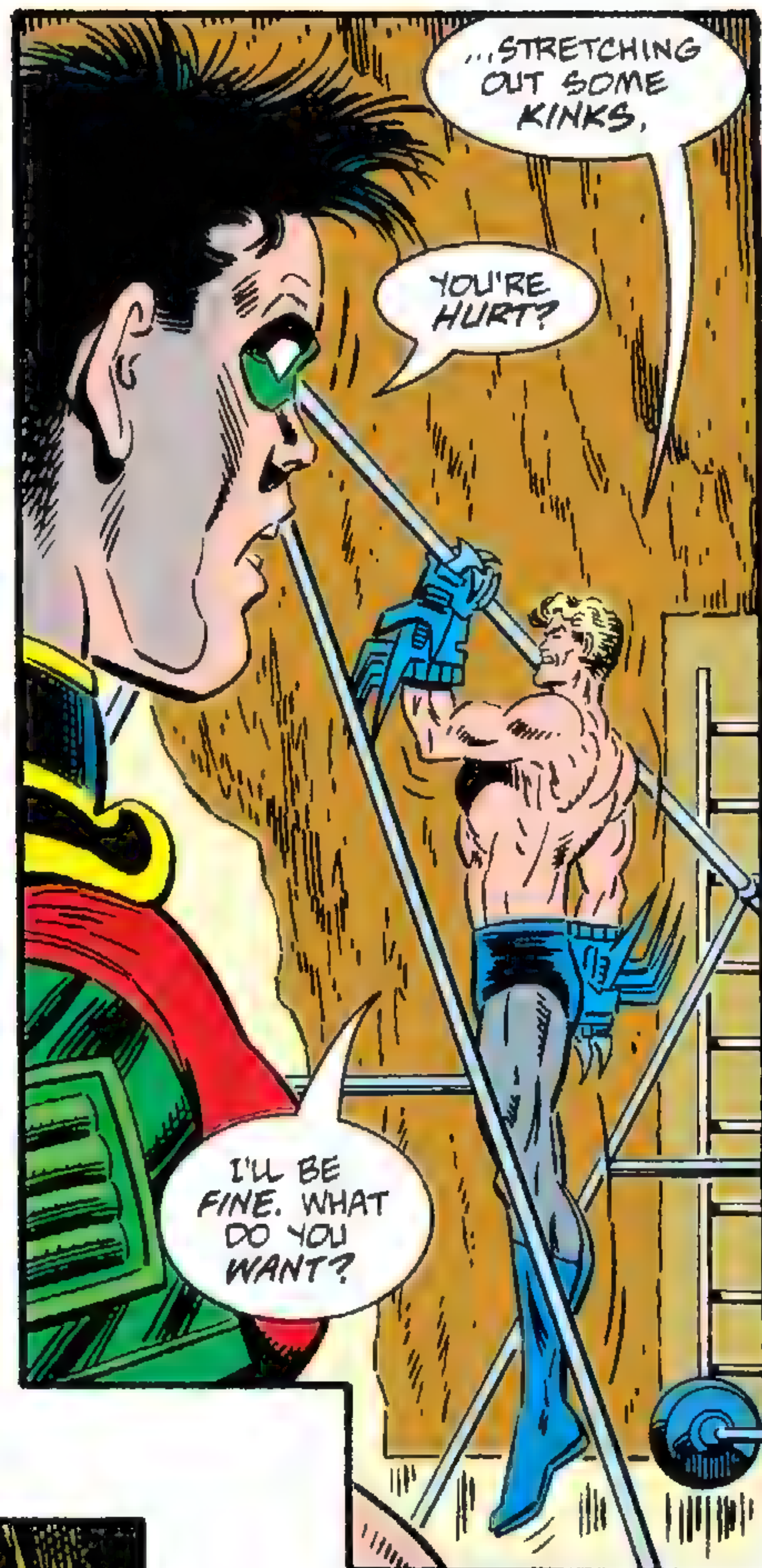
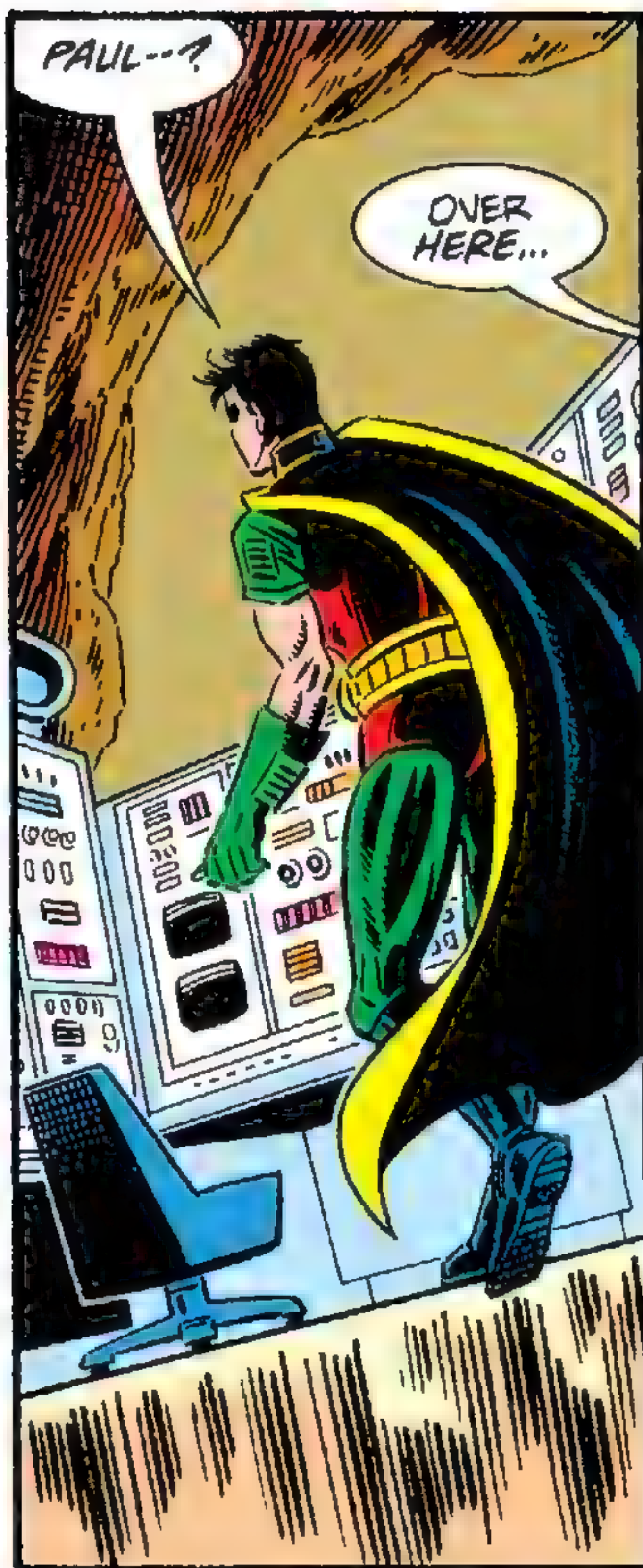


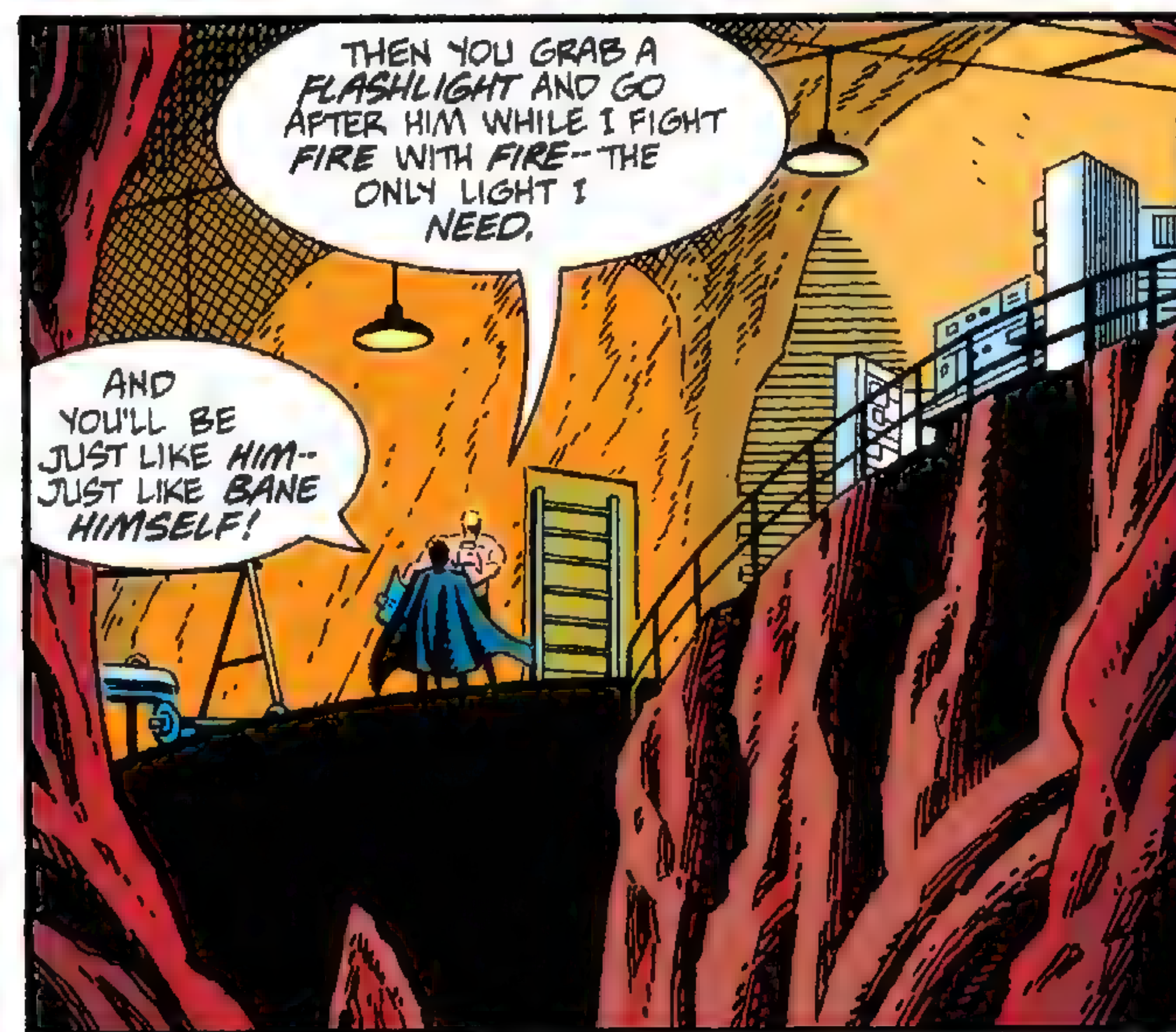
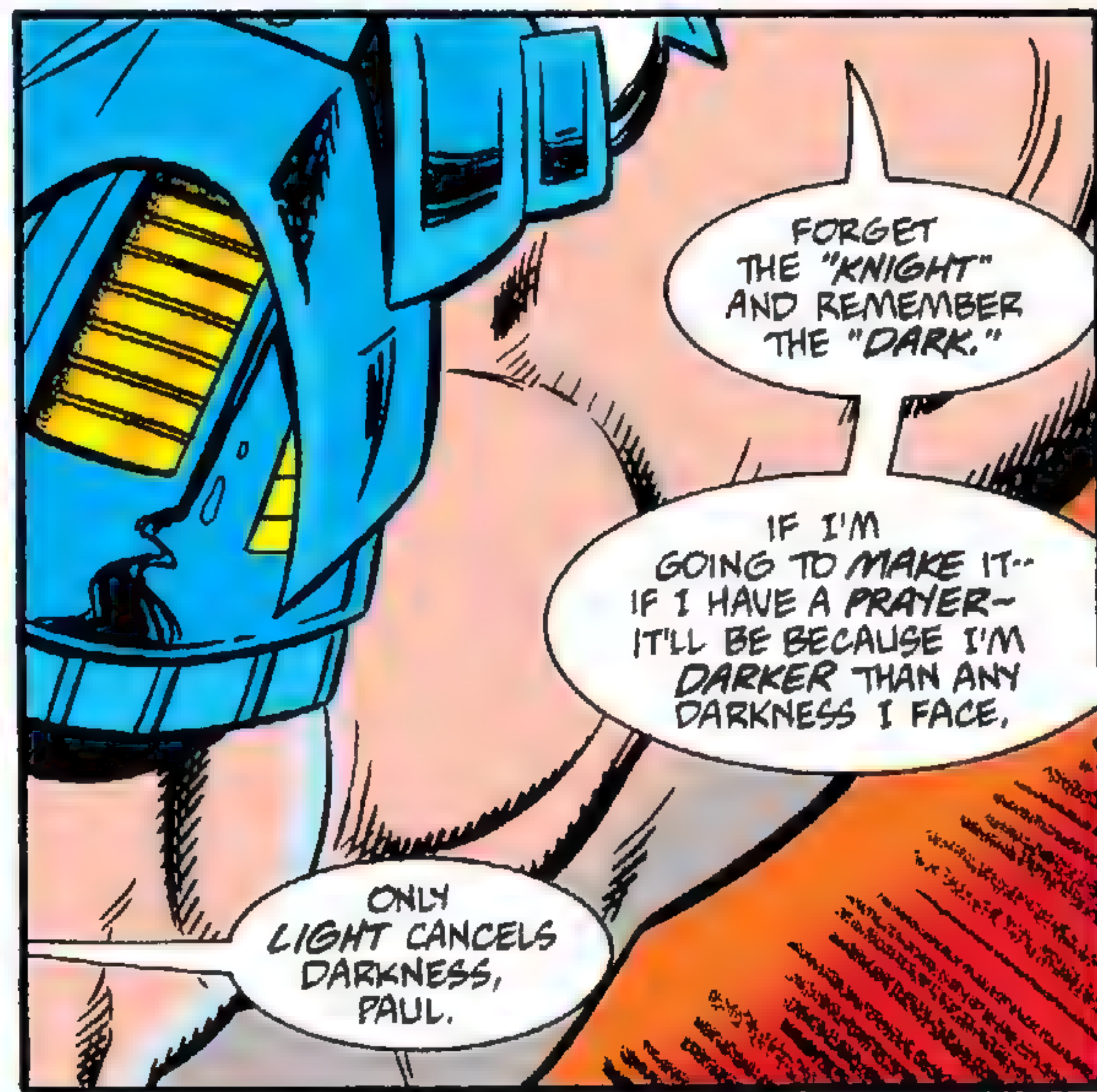
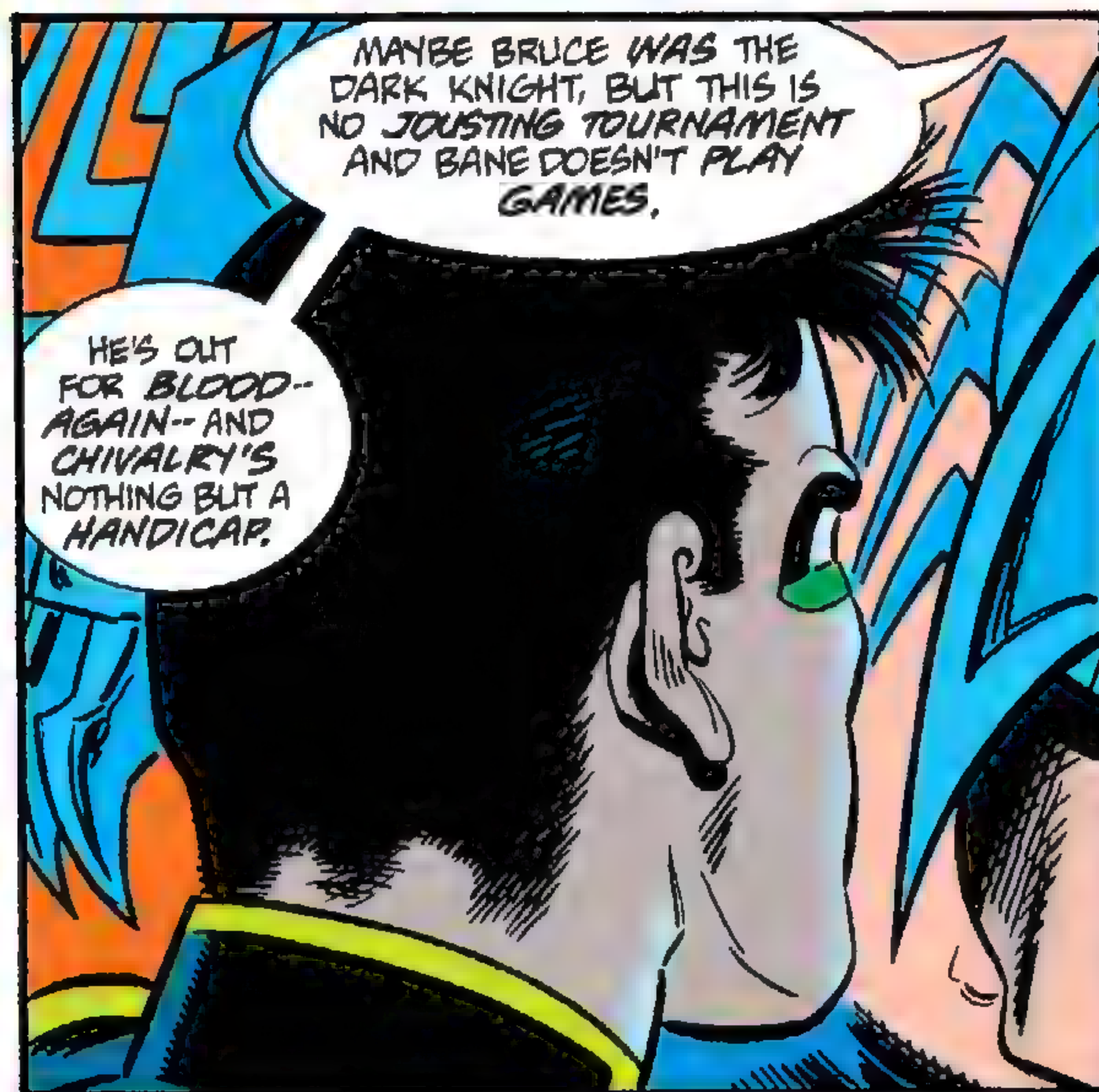
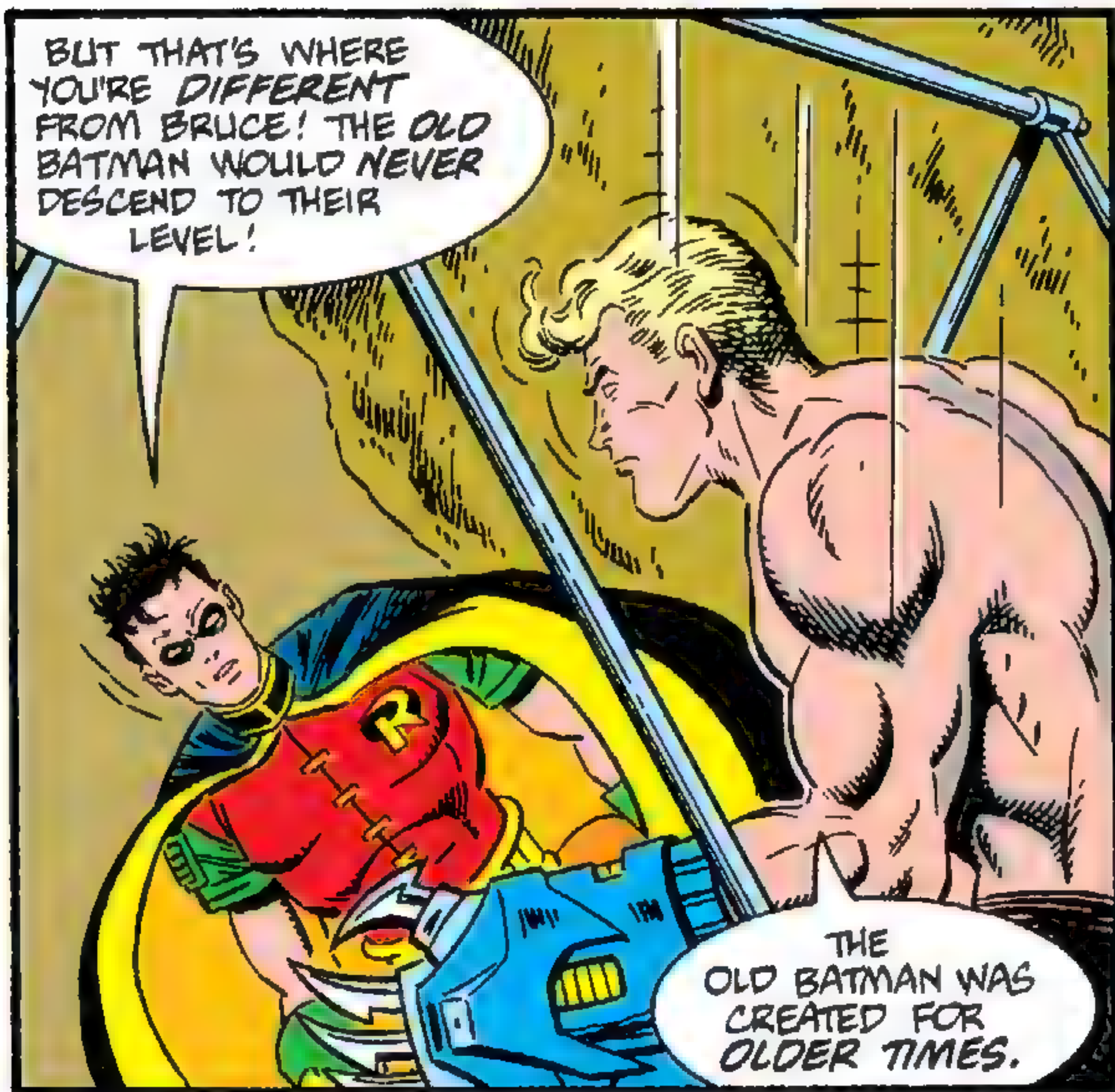


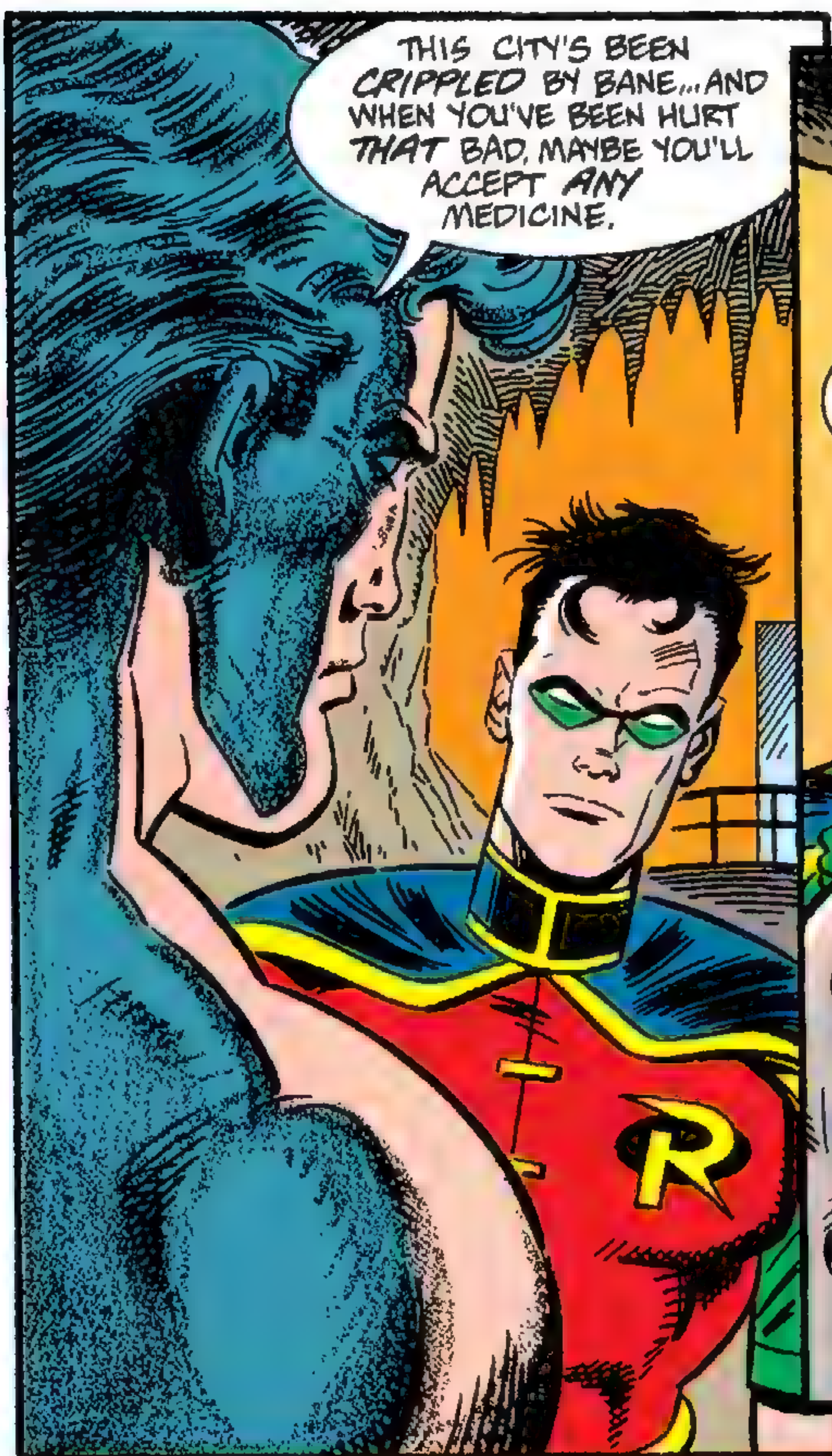












THIS CITY'S BEEN CRIPPLED BY BANE...AND WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HURT THAT BAD, MAYBE YOU'LL ACCEPT ANY MEDICINE.



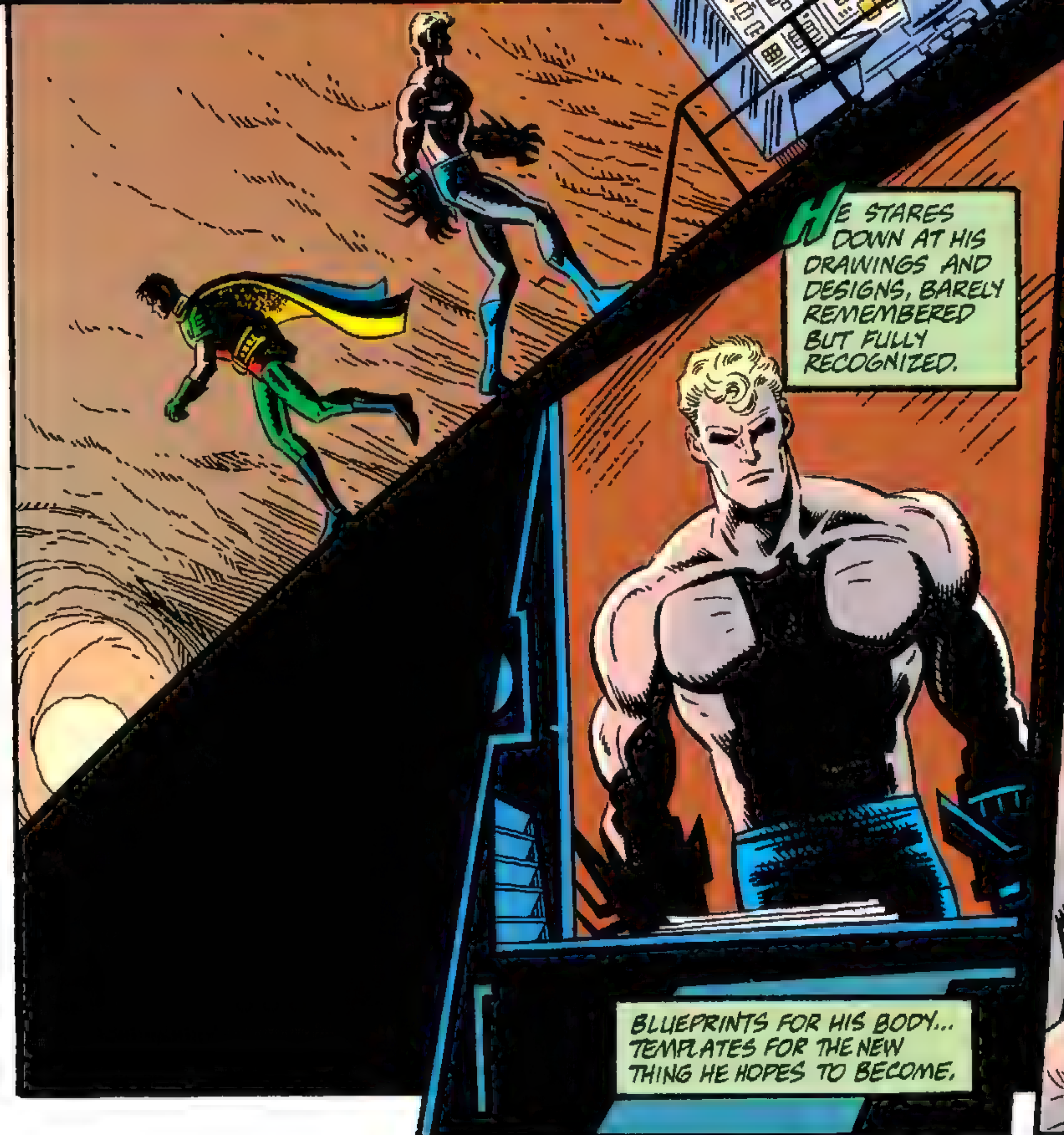
THEN YOU CAN JUST COUNT ME OUT, PAUL!

THE OLD BATMAN'S BROKEN AND GONE, ROBIN,

IT'S TIME FOR SOMETHING NEW.

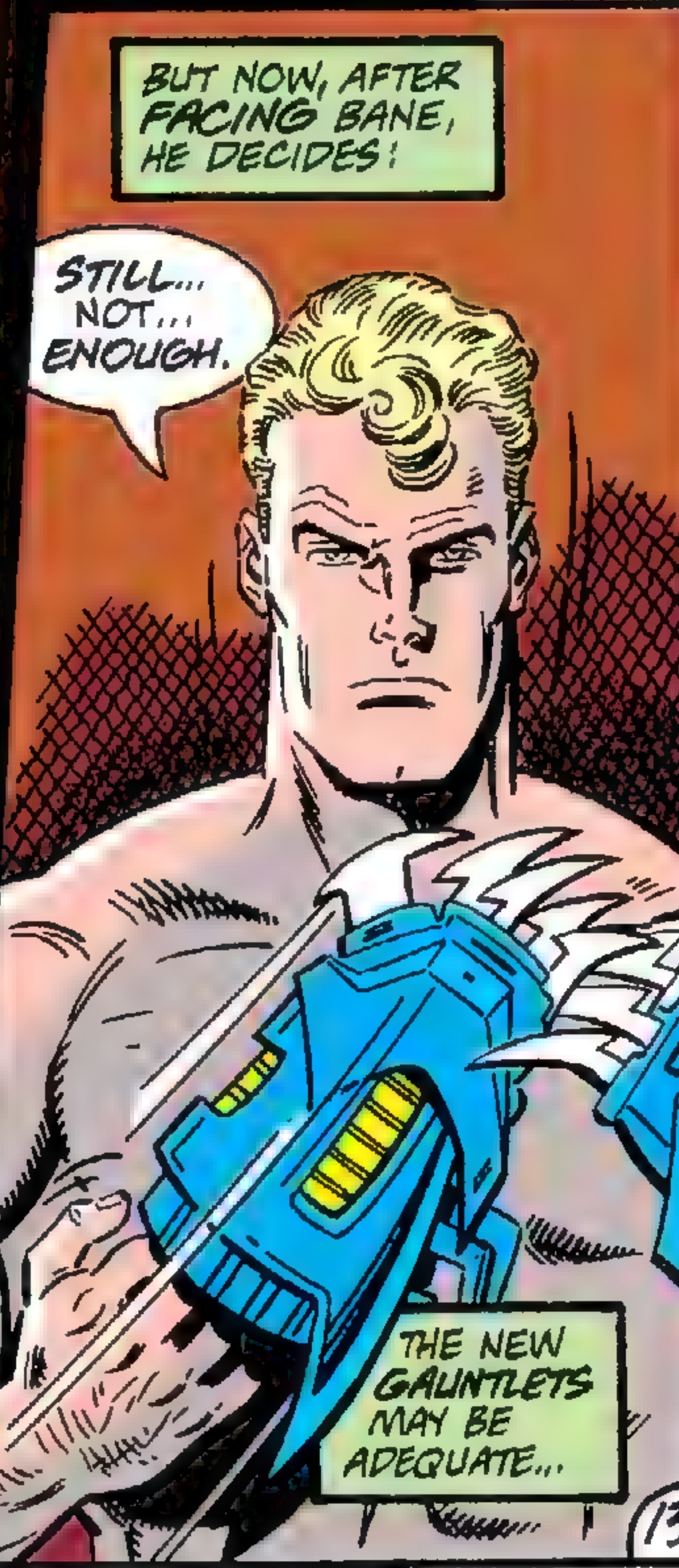


I ALREADY HAVE. BANE'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU. YOUR HEART'S ALREADY BLEEDING. HE'D SQUEEZE IT DRY.



HE STARES DOWN AT HIS DRAWINGS AND DESIGNS, BARELY REMEMBERED BUT FULLY RECOGNIZED.

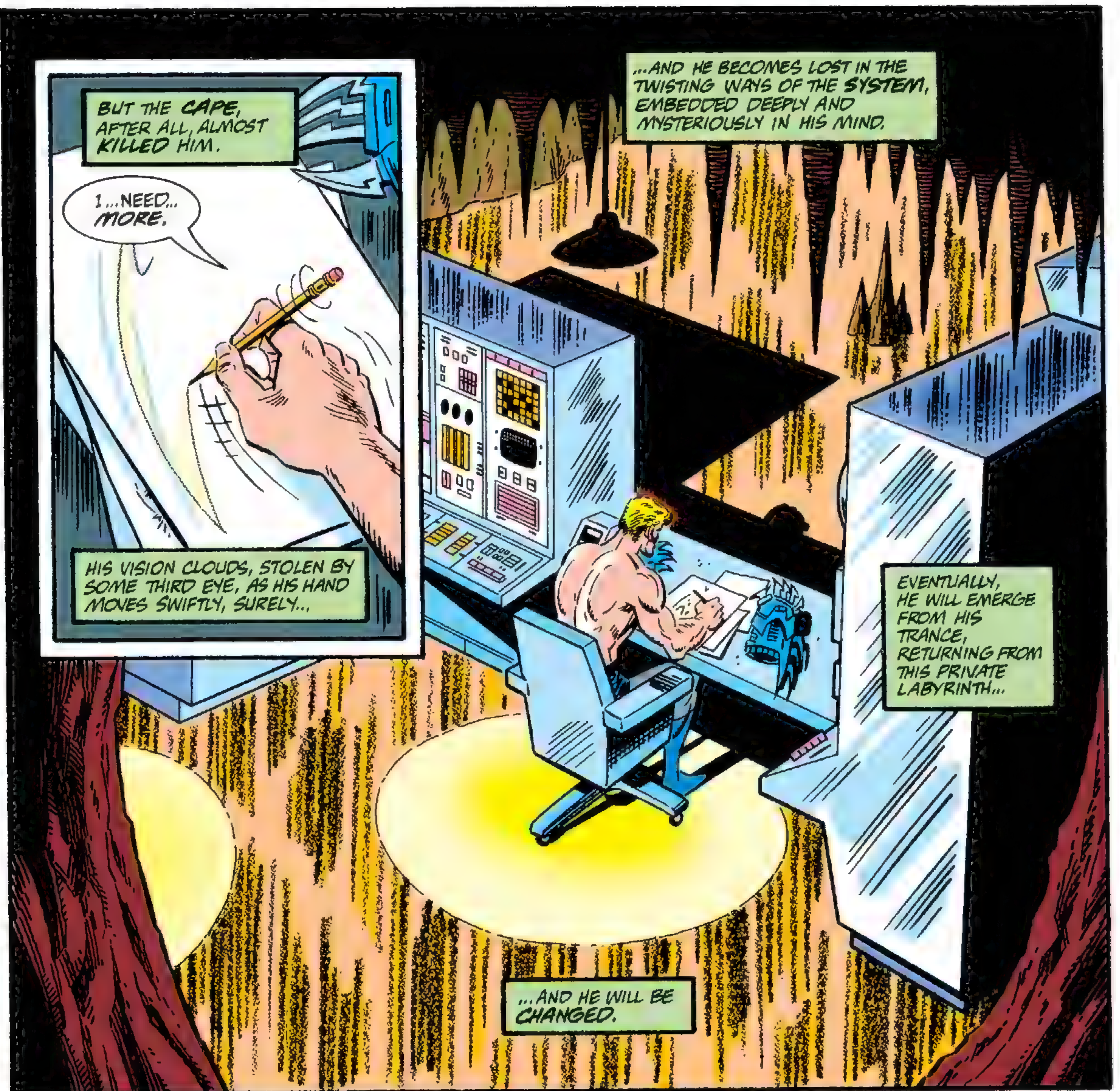
BLUEPRINTS FOR HIS BODY... TEMPLATES FOR THE NEW THING HE HOPES TO BECOME.



BUT NOW, AFTER FACING BANE, HE DECIDES!

STILL... NOT... ENOUGH.

THE NEW GAUNTLETS MAY BE ADEQUATE...





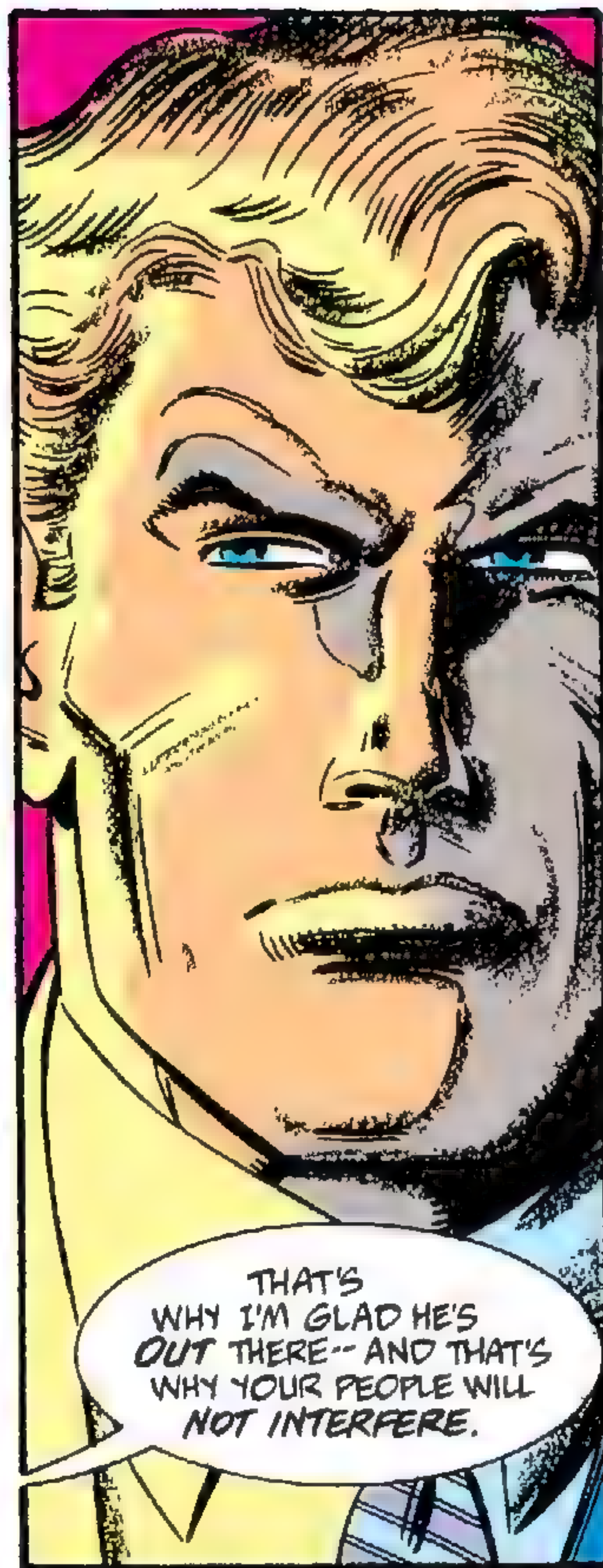
HE SAVED MY LIFE, KITCH--AND HE DIDN'T DO IT BY FOLLOWING ANY BOOK!

YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING THE POLICE FORCE SHOULD CHANGE ITS--



OF COURSE NOT! YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW THE BOOK, KITCH--CHAPTER AND VERSE--NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HAMPER'S YOU.

BUT THEY DON'T--AND NEITHER DOES HE,



THAT'S WHY I'M GLAD HE'S OUT THERE--AND THAT'S WHY YOUR PEOPLE WILL NOT INTERFERE.



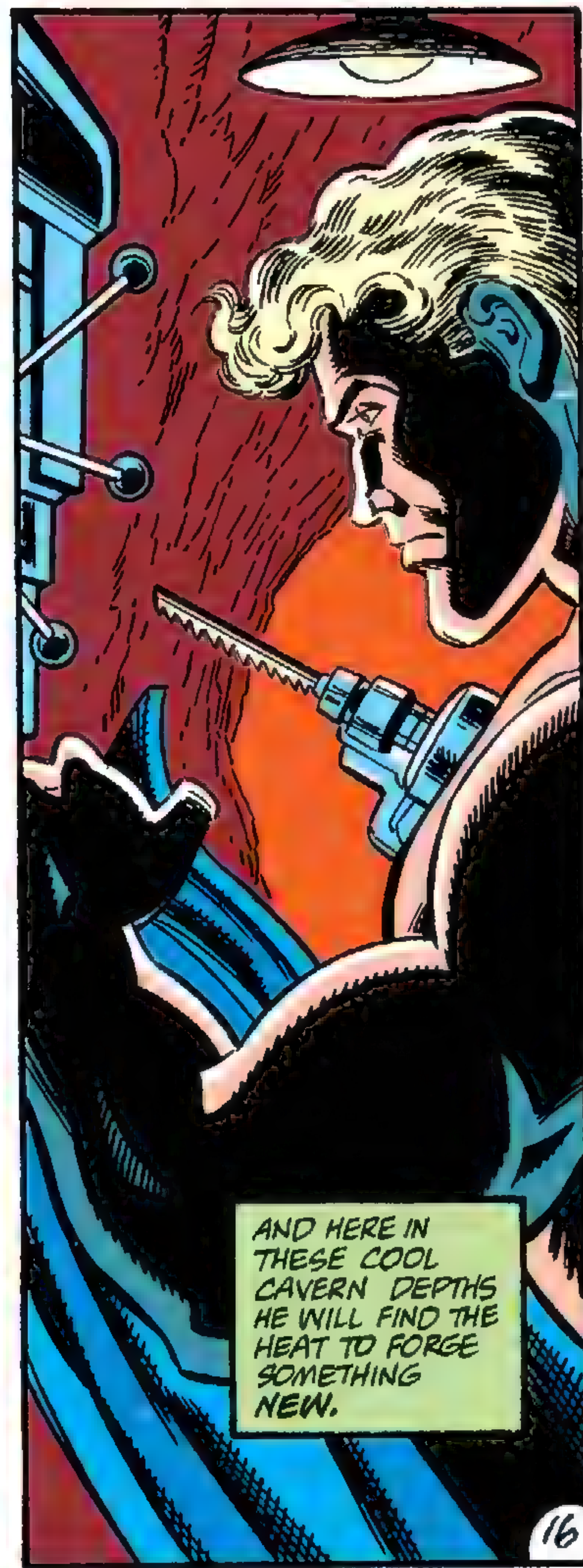
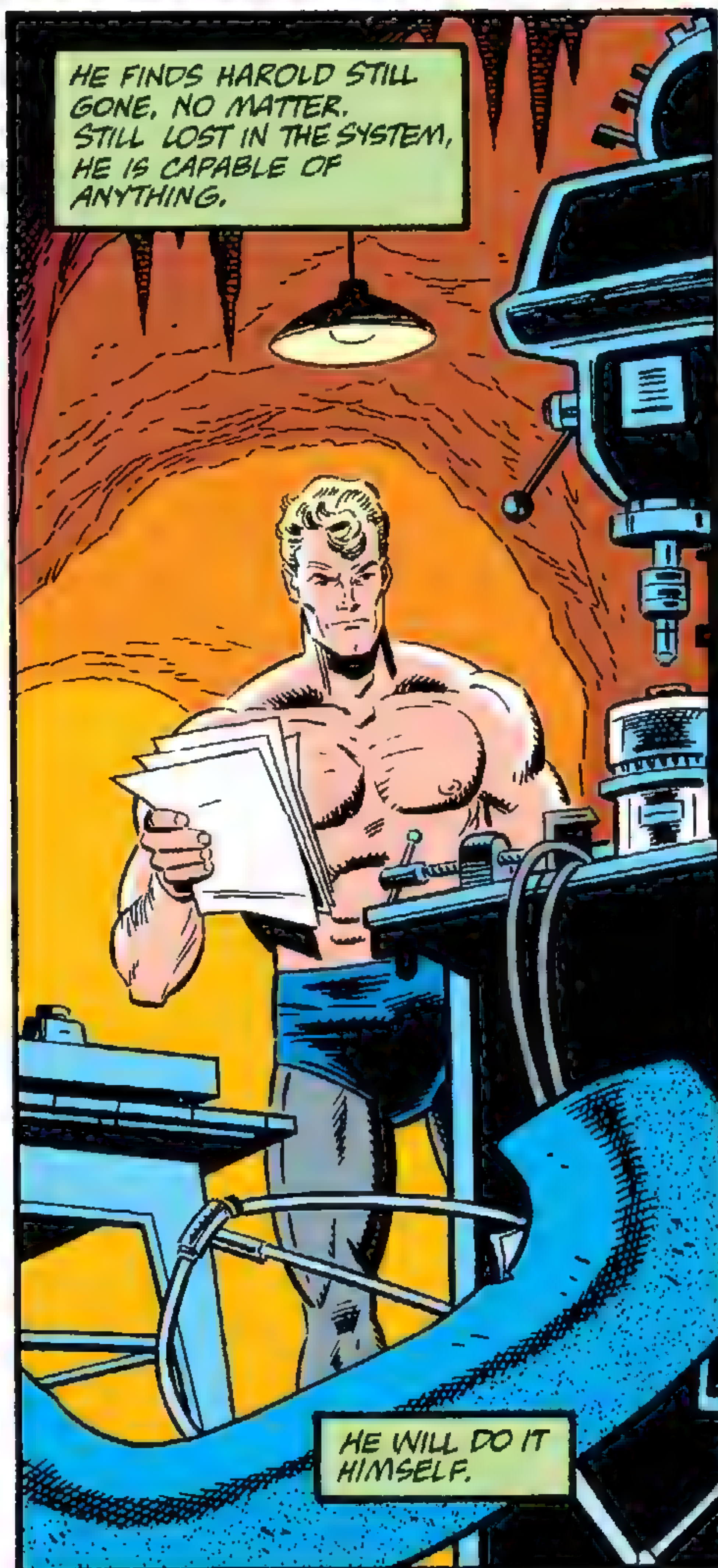
BUT IF YOU'RE NOT COMING HOME, JAMES, THEN WHAT ARE YOU--

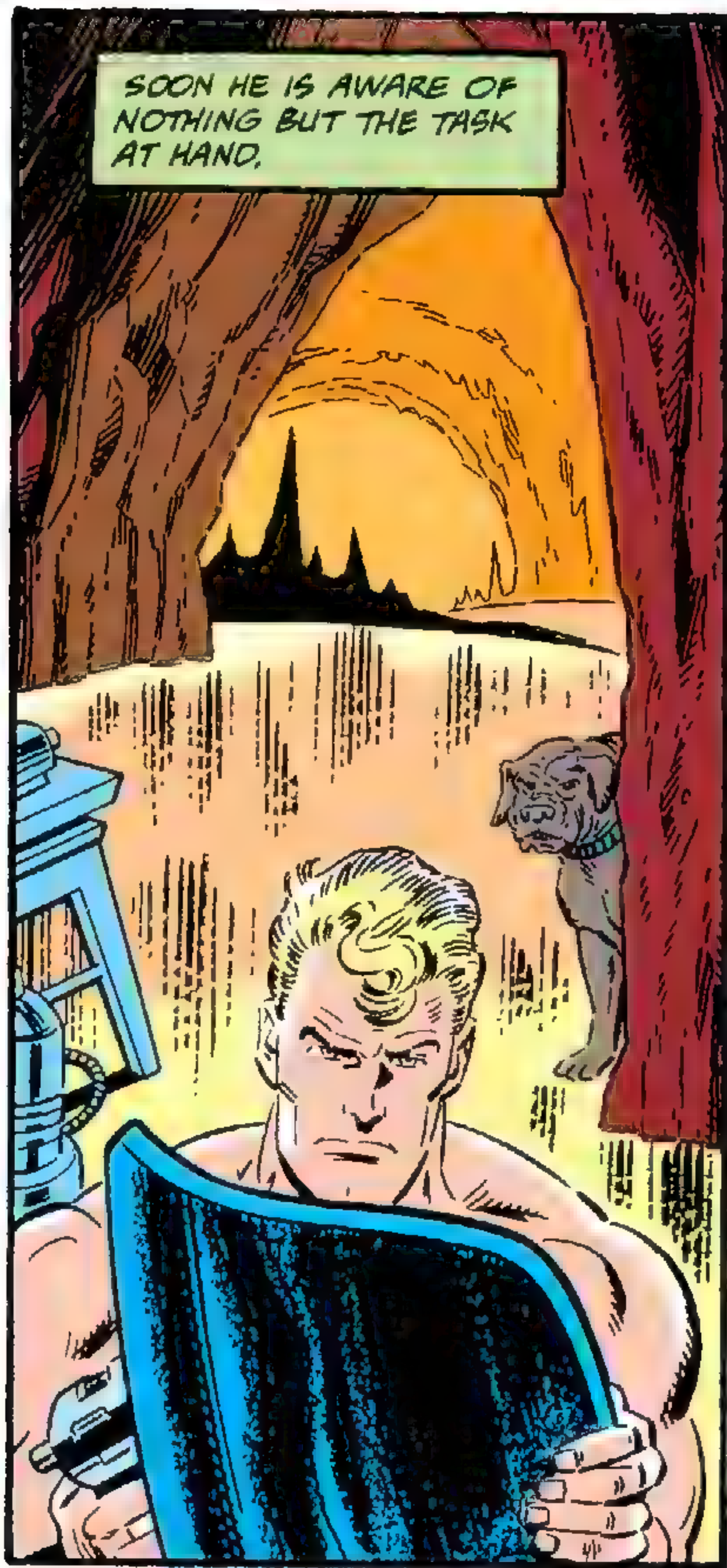
NOTHING, SARAH...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO NOW...



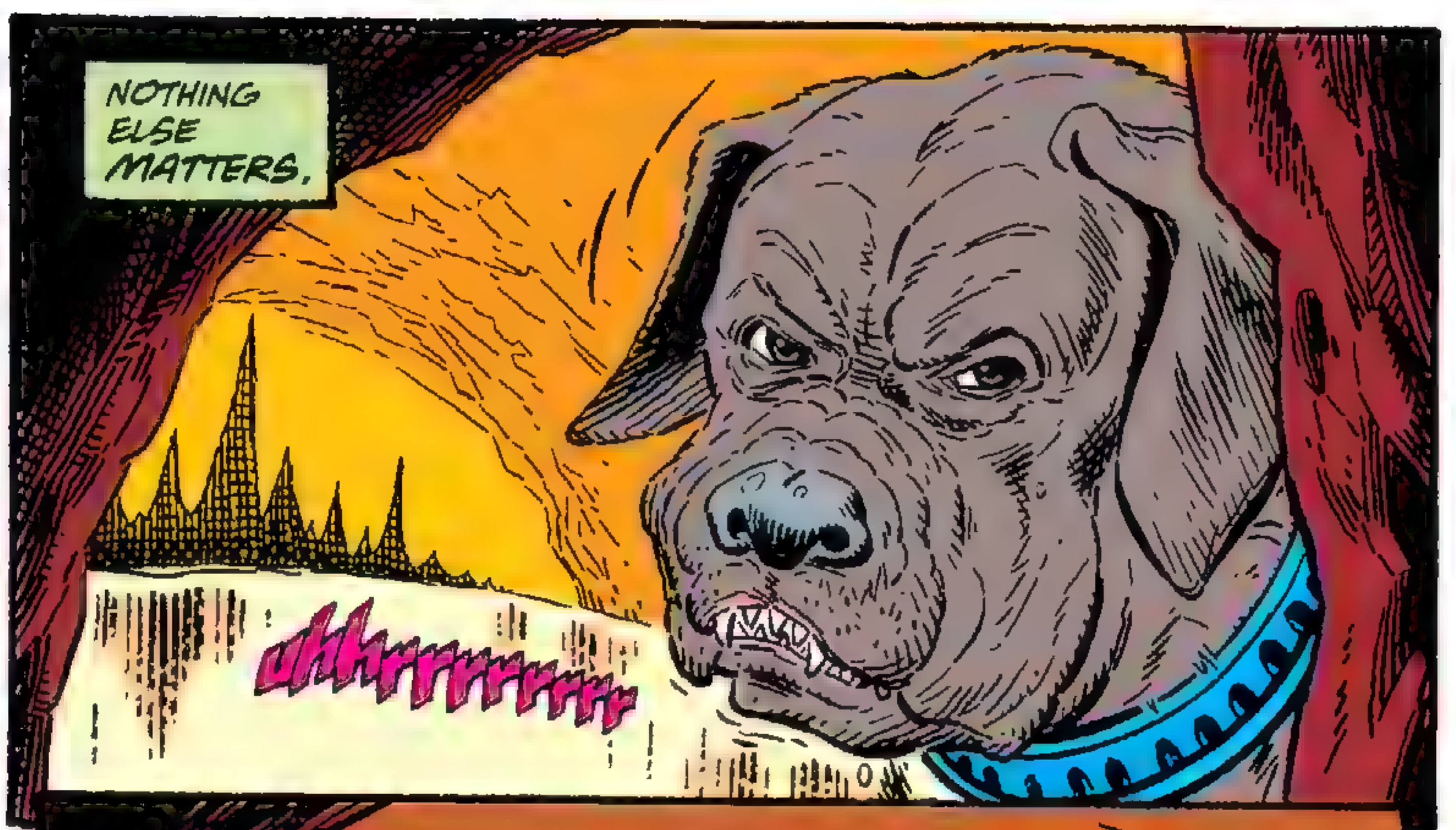
...NOTHING BUT SIT HERE AND WAIT.

FOR HIM. FOR THE BATMAN.



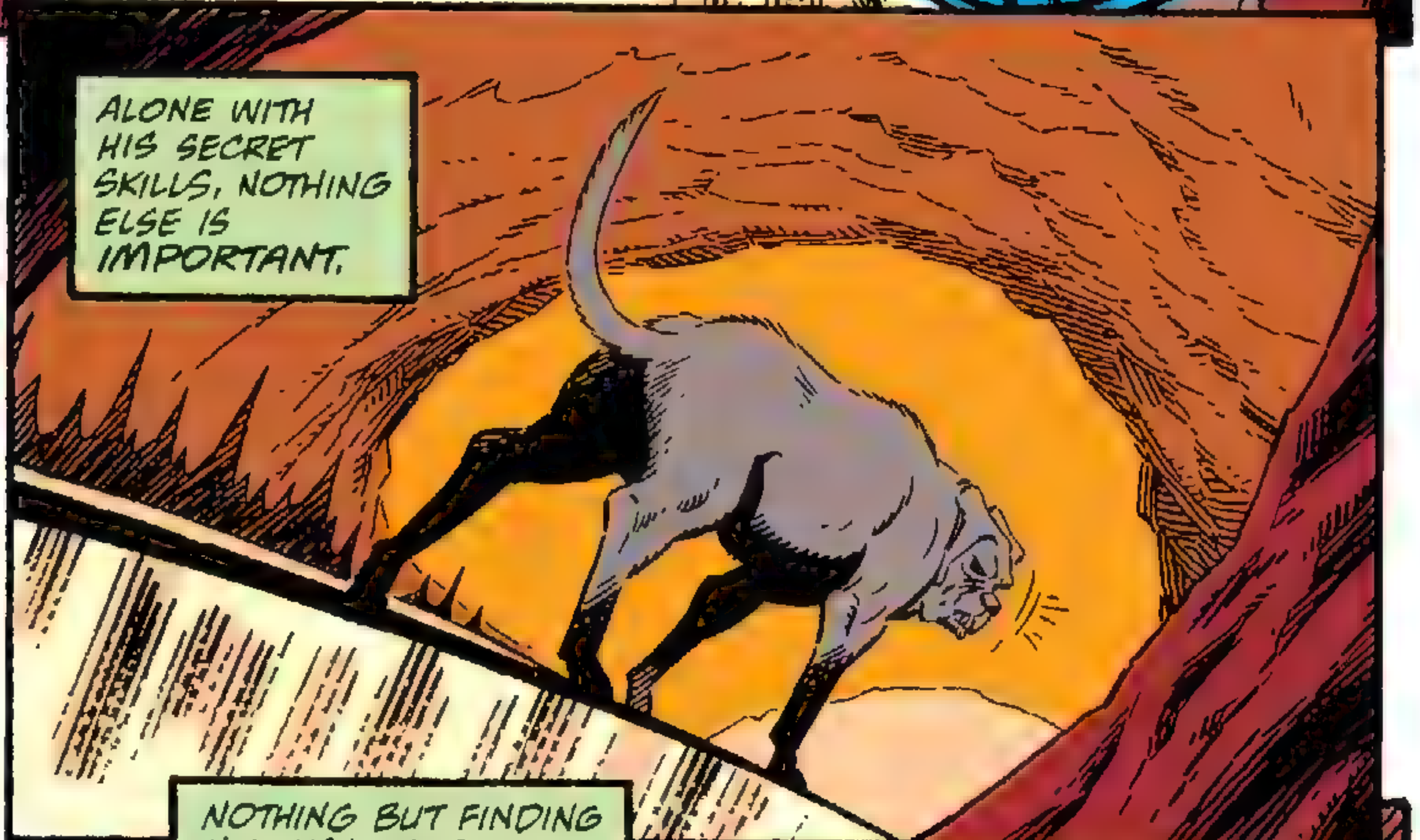


SOON HE IS AWARE OF
NOTHING BUT THE TASK
AT HAND.



NOTHING
ELSE
MATTERS.

uhrrrrrrrr



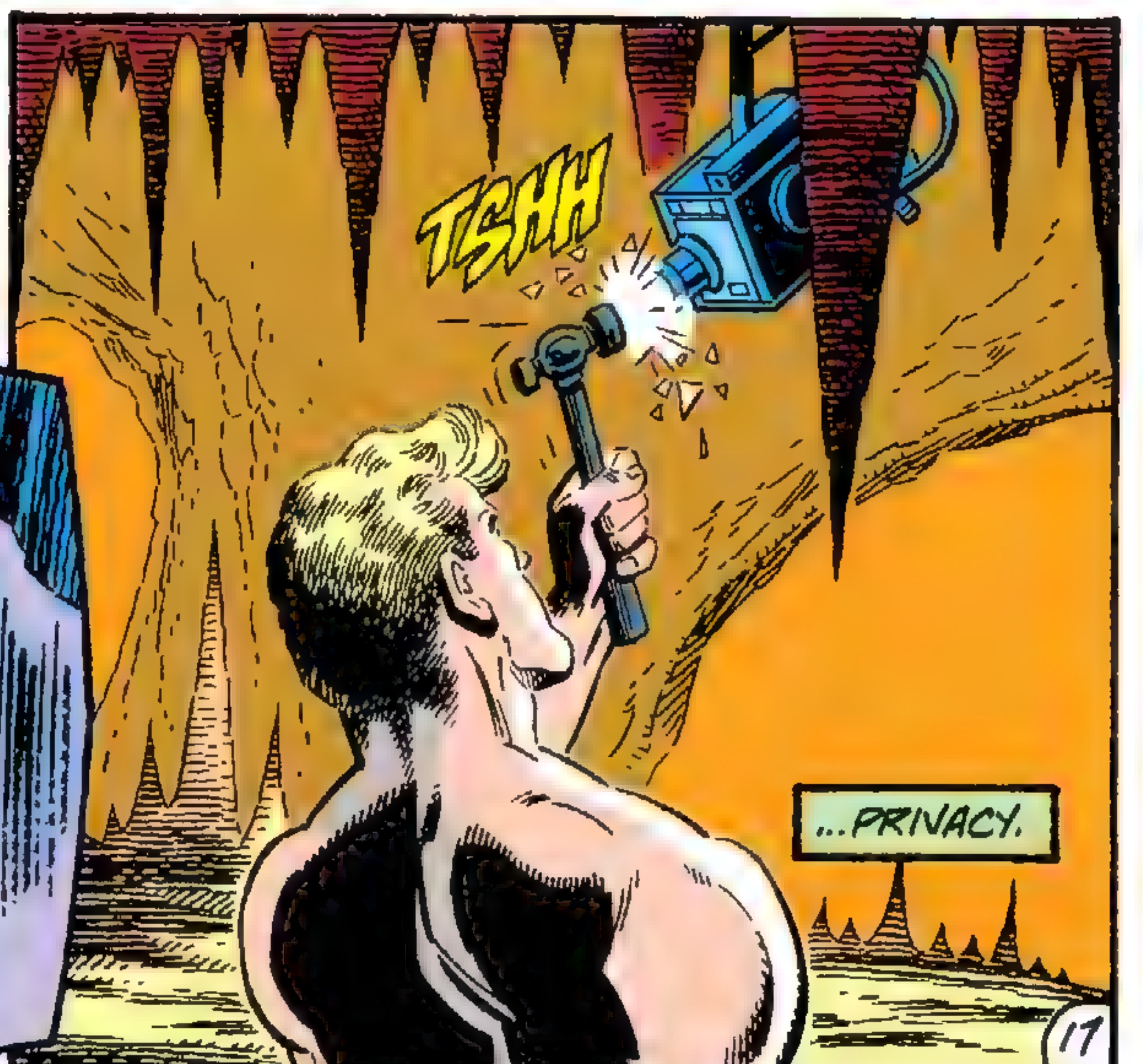
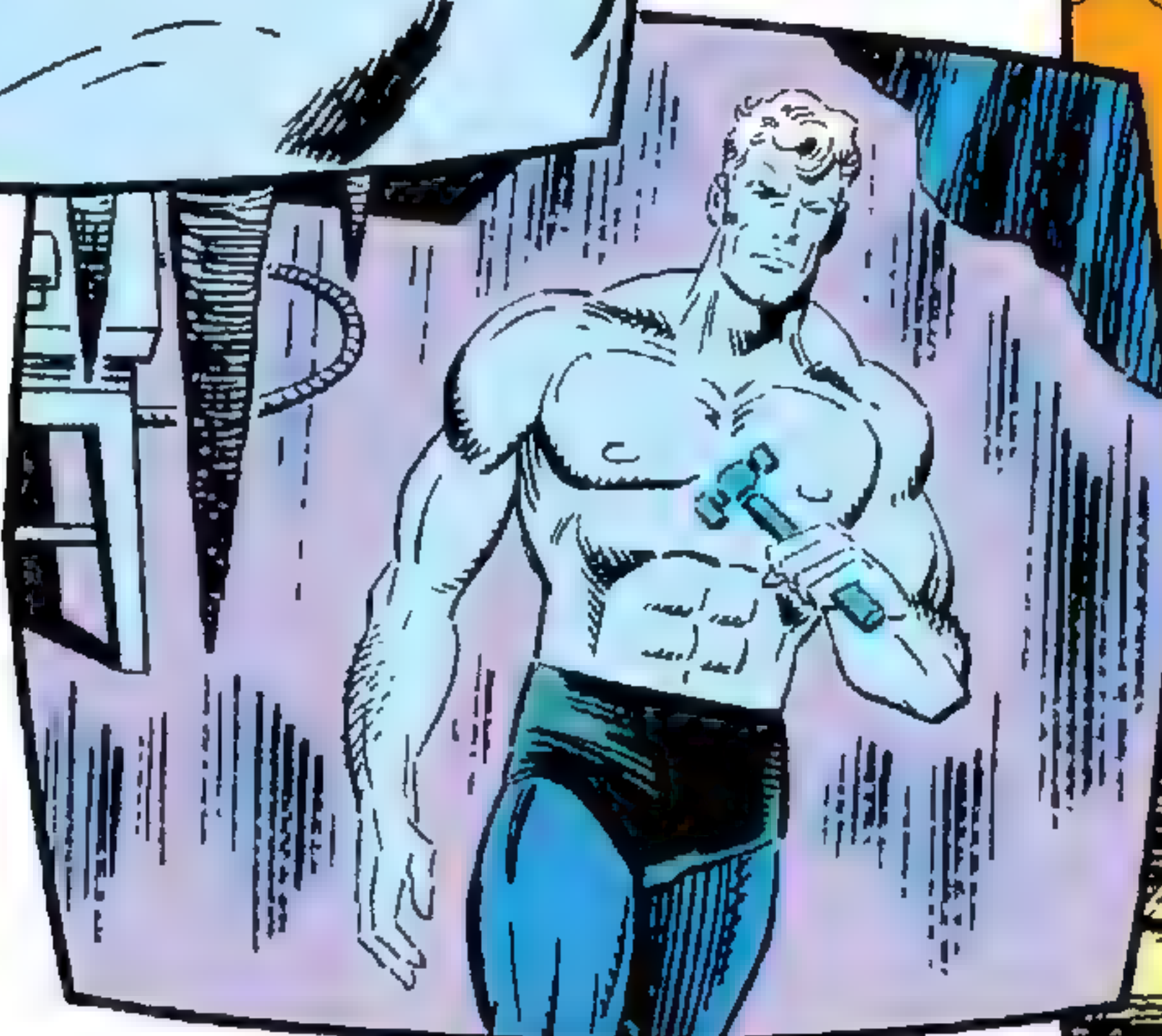
ALONE WITH
HIS SECRET
SKILLS, NOTHING
ELSE IS
IMPORTANT.



NOTHING BUT FINDING
HIS WAY THROUGH
NEW REGIONS OF THE
SYSTEM'S LABYRINTH.

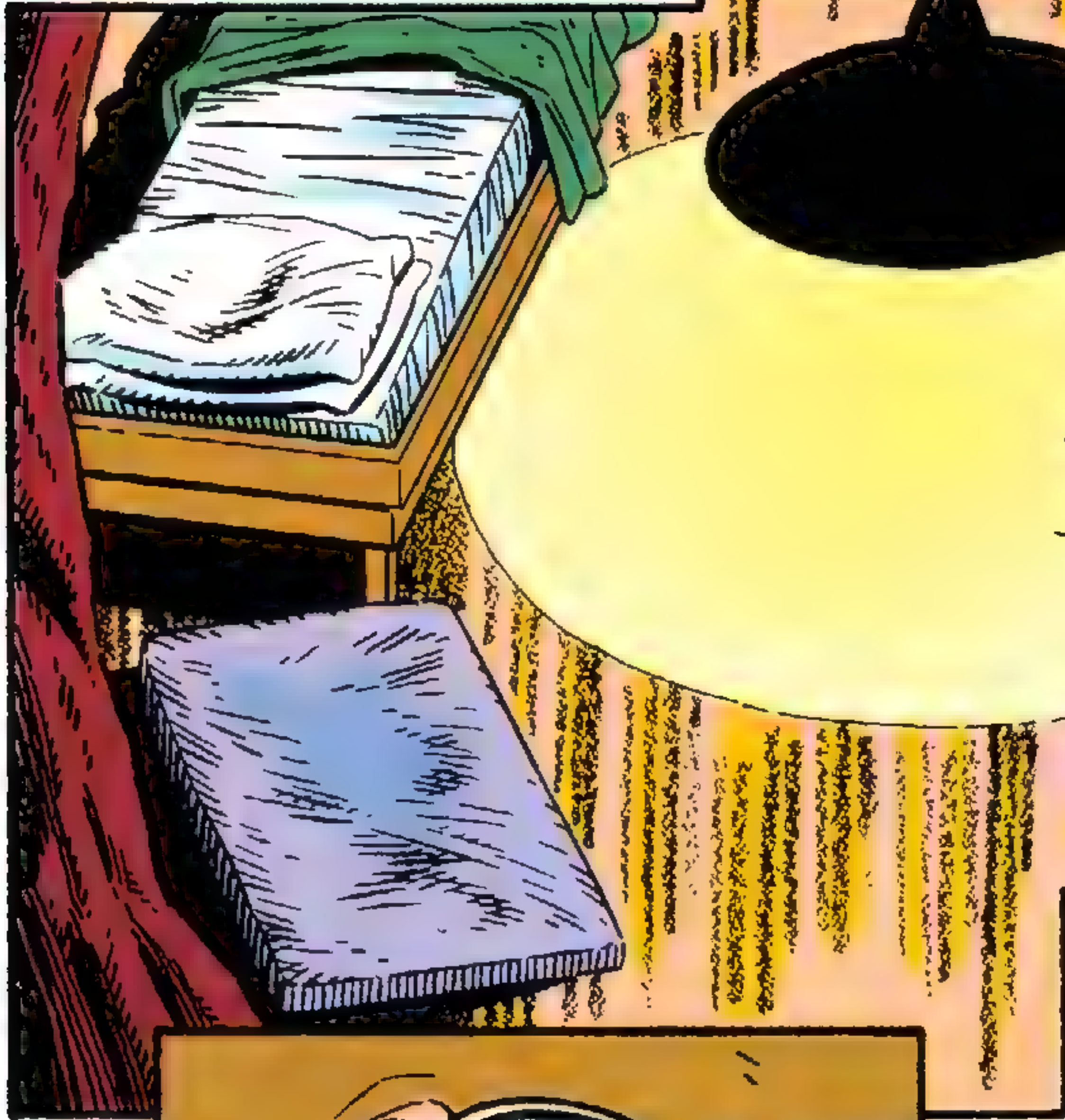
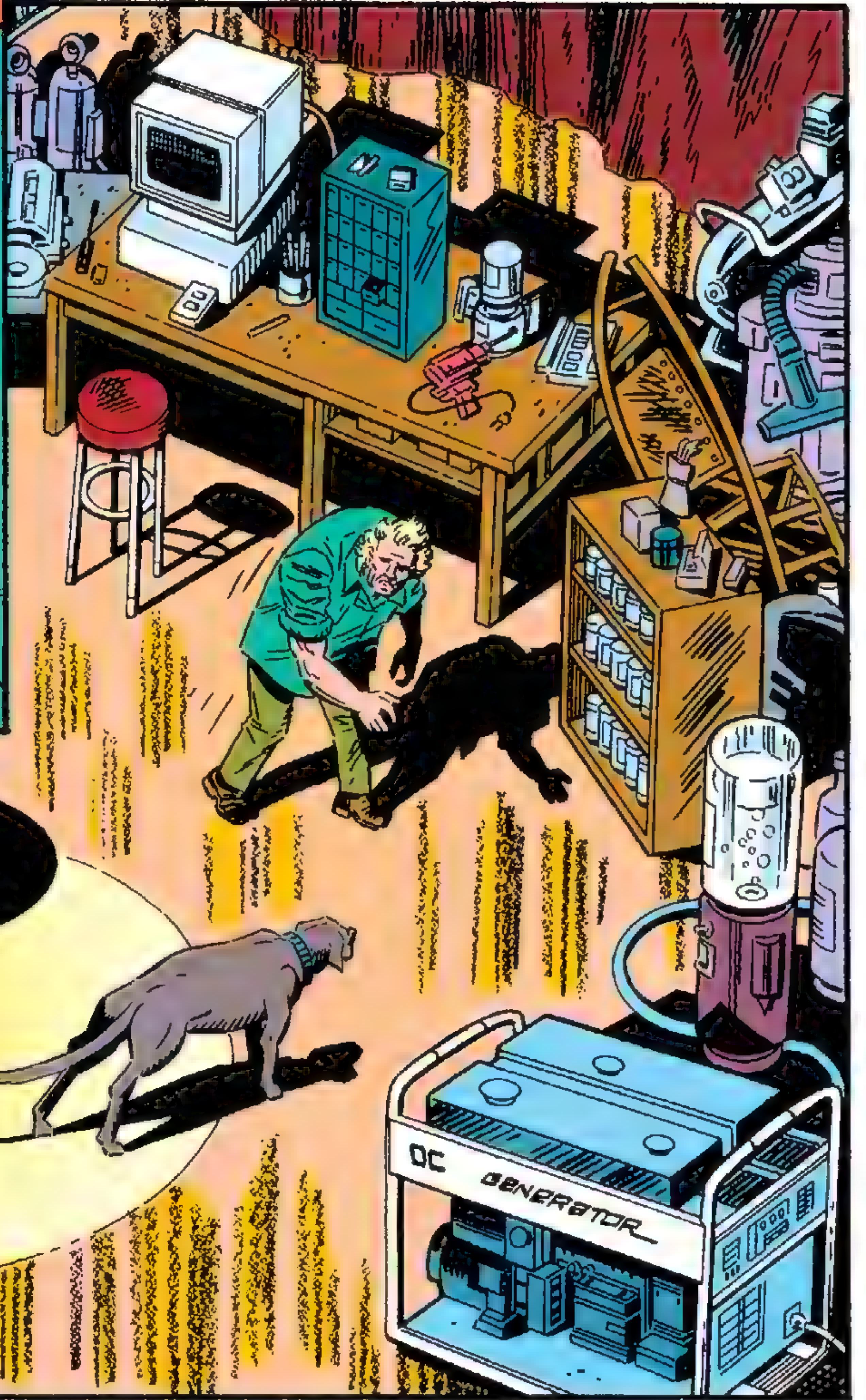
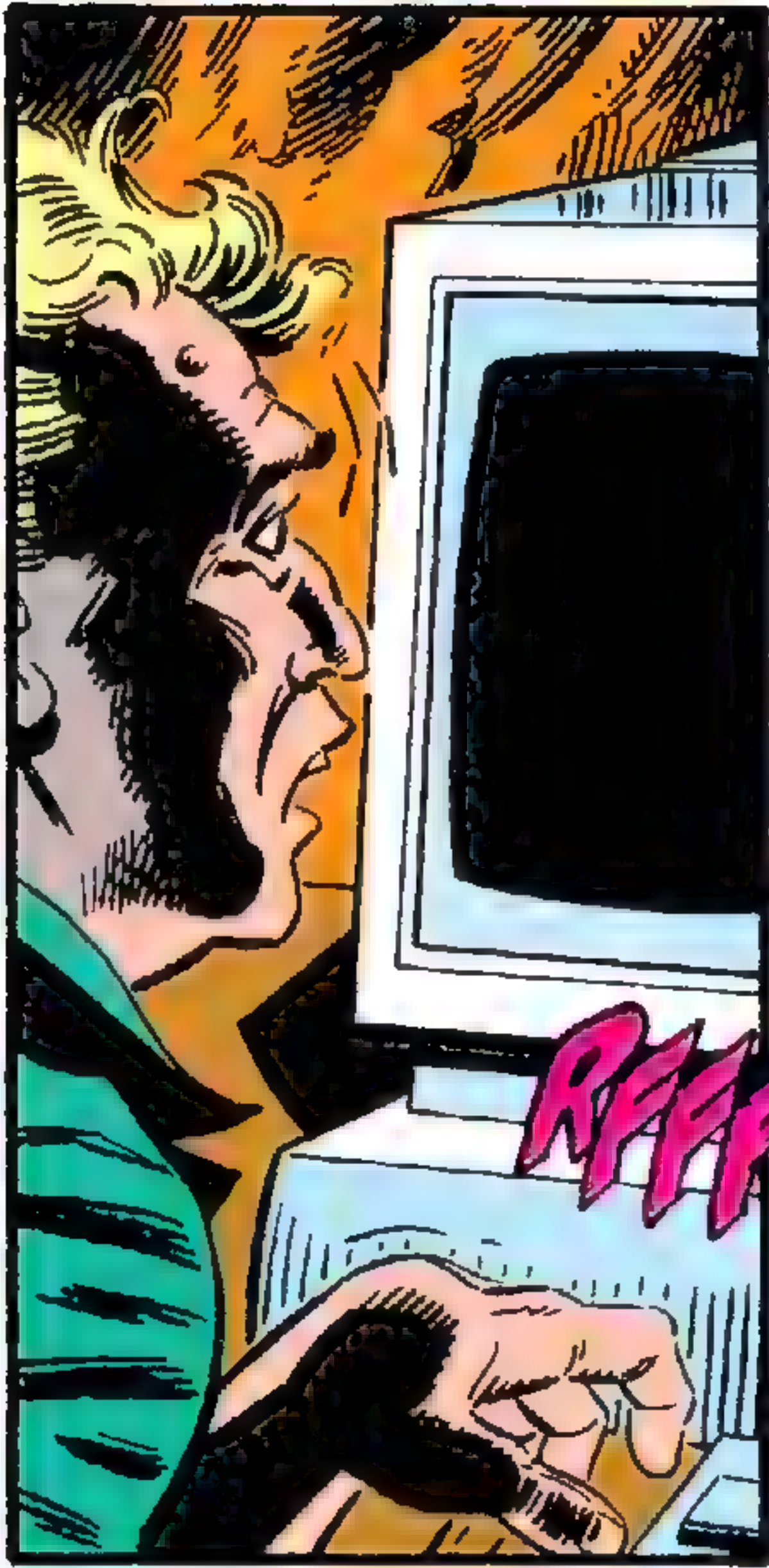


NOTHING
BUT...



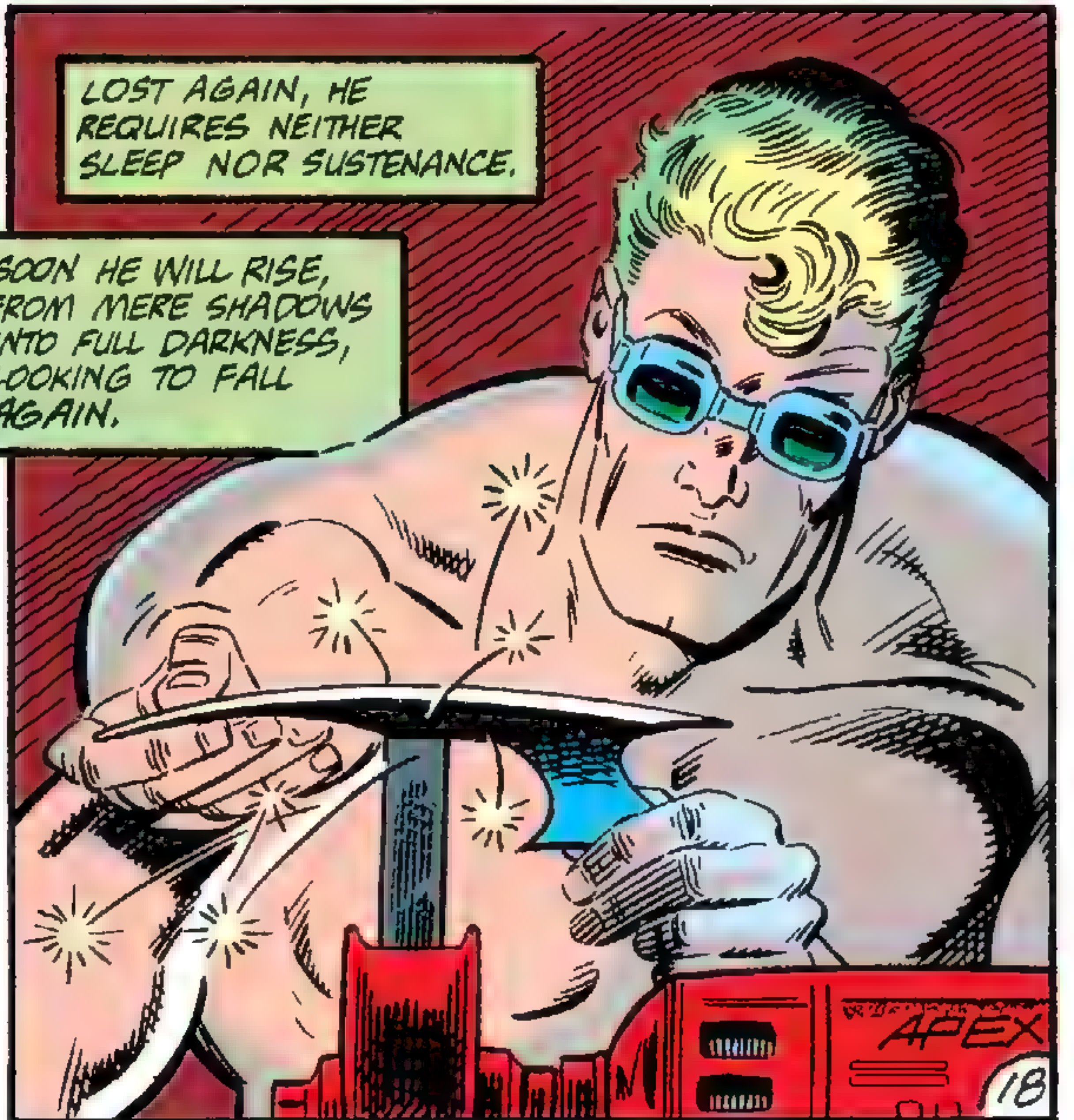
TSHH

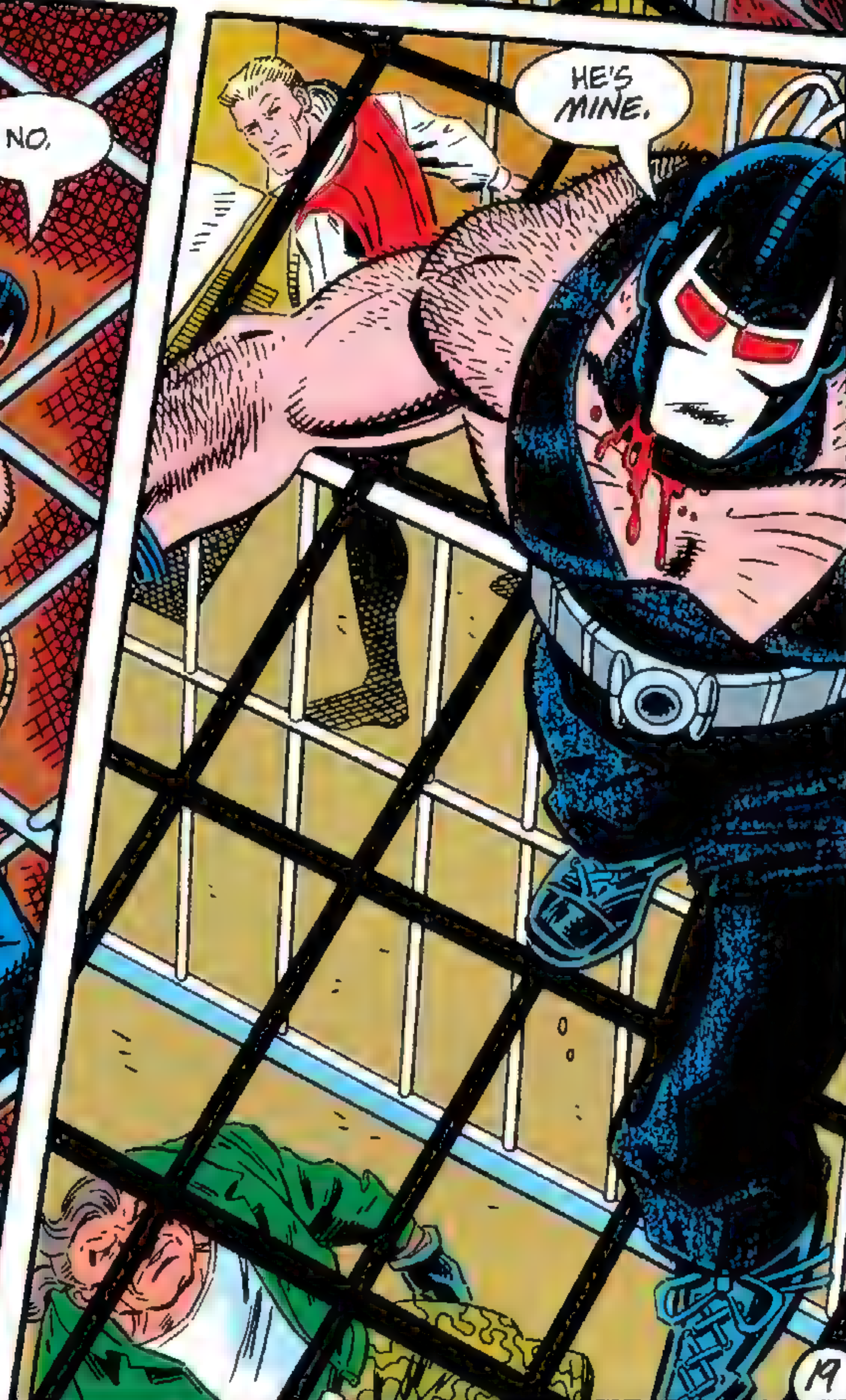
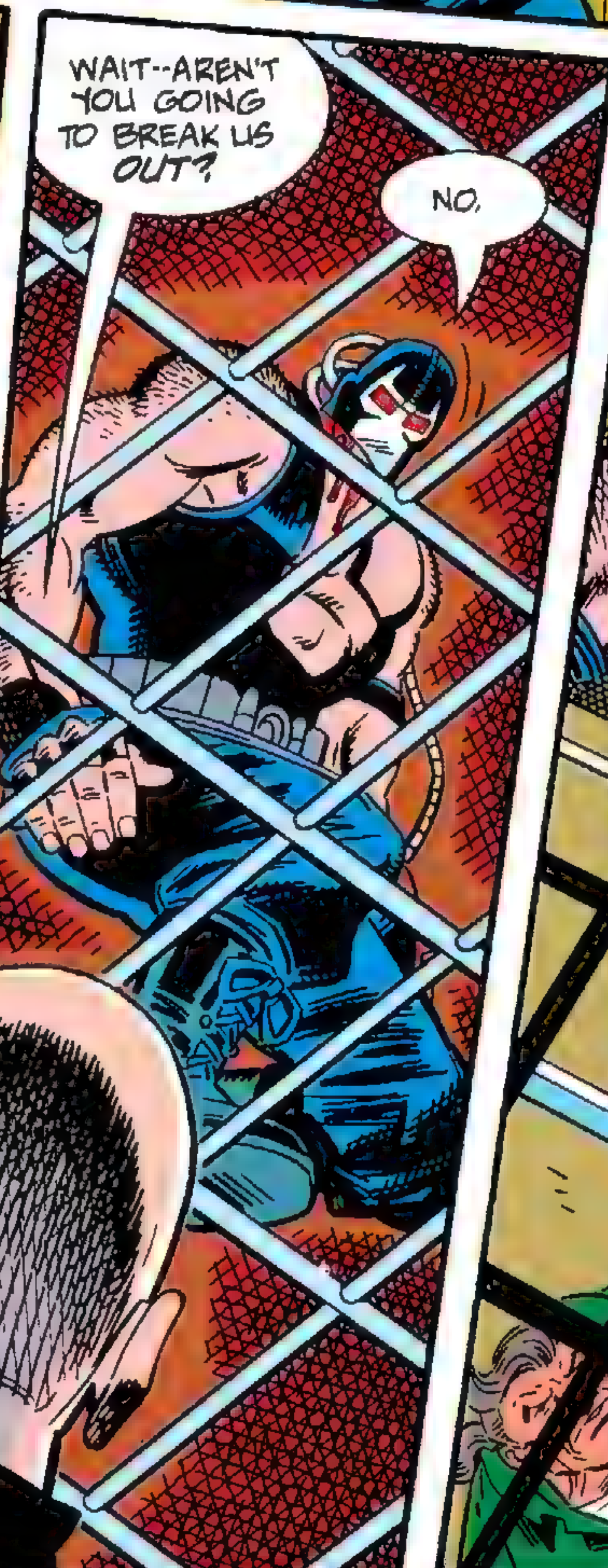
...PRIVACY.

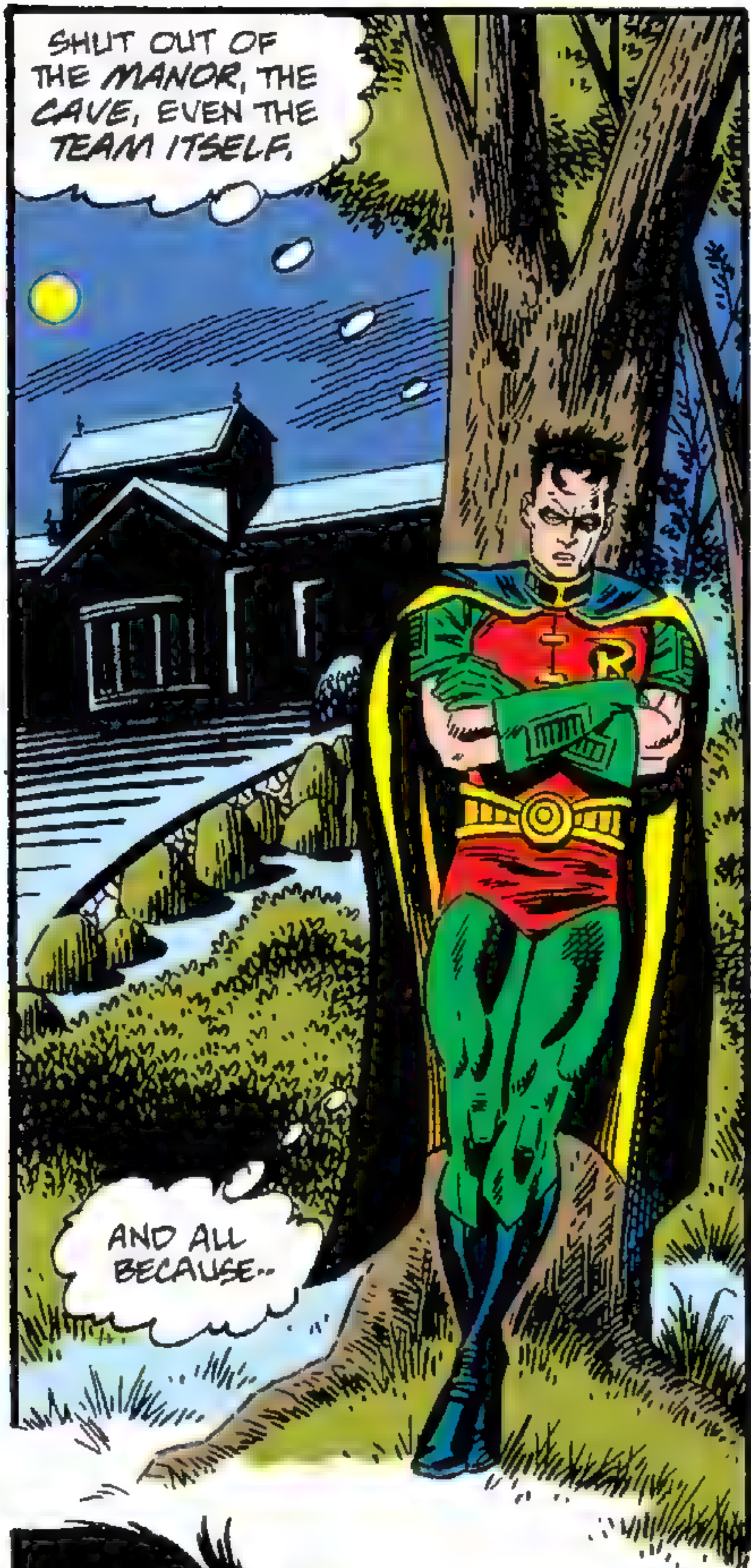


LOST AGAIN, HE
REQUIRES NEITHER
SLEEP NOR SUSTENANCE.

SOON HE WILL RISE,
FROM MERE SHADOWS
INTO FULL DARKNESS,
LOOKING TO FALL
AGAIN.

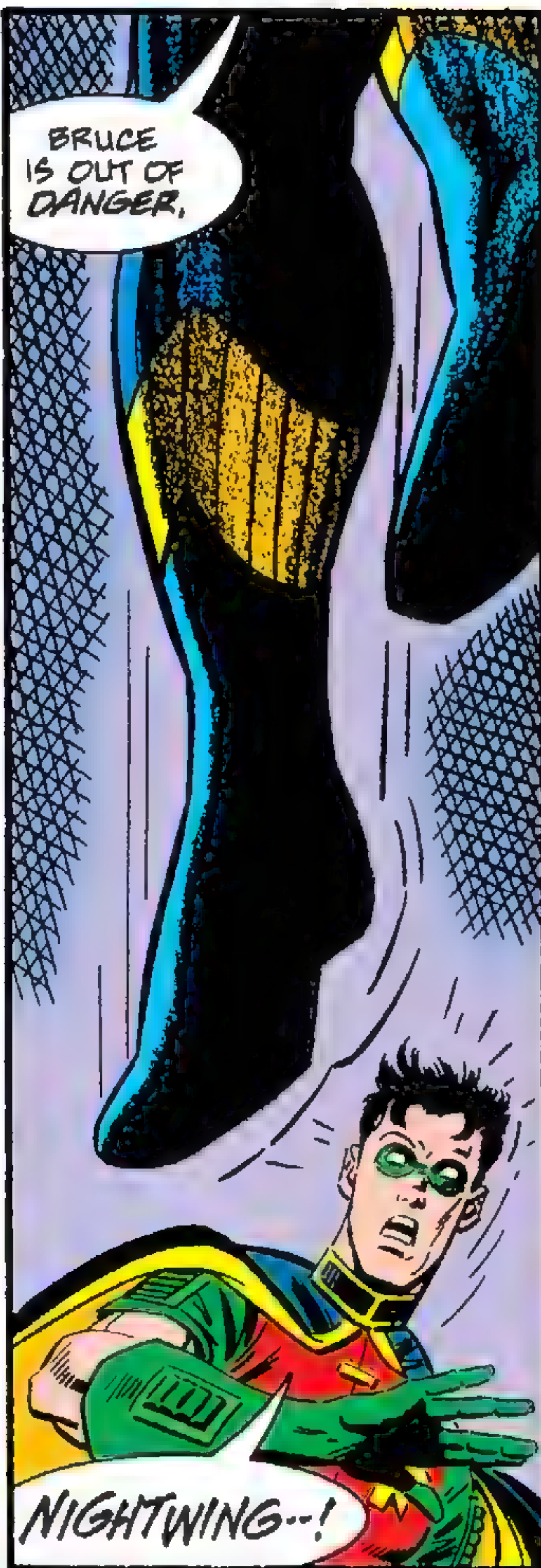






SHUT OUT OF
THE MANOR, THE
CAVE, EVEN THE
TEAM ITSELF.

AND ALL
BECAUSE--



BRUCE
IS OUT OF
DANGER.

NIGHTWING--!



HOW DID
YOU KNOW HE
WAS--

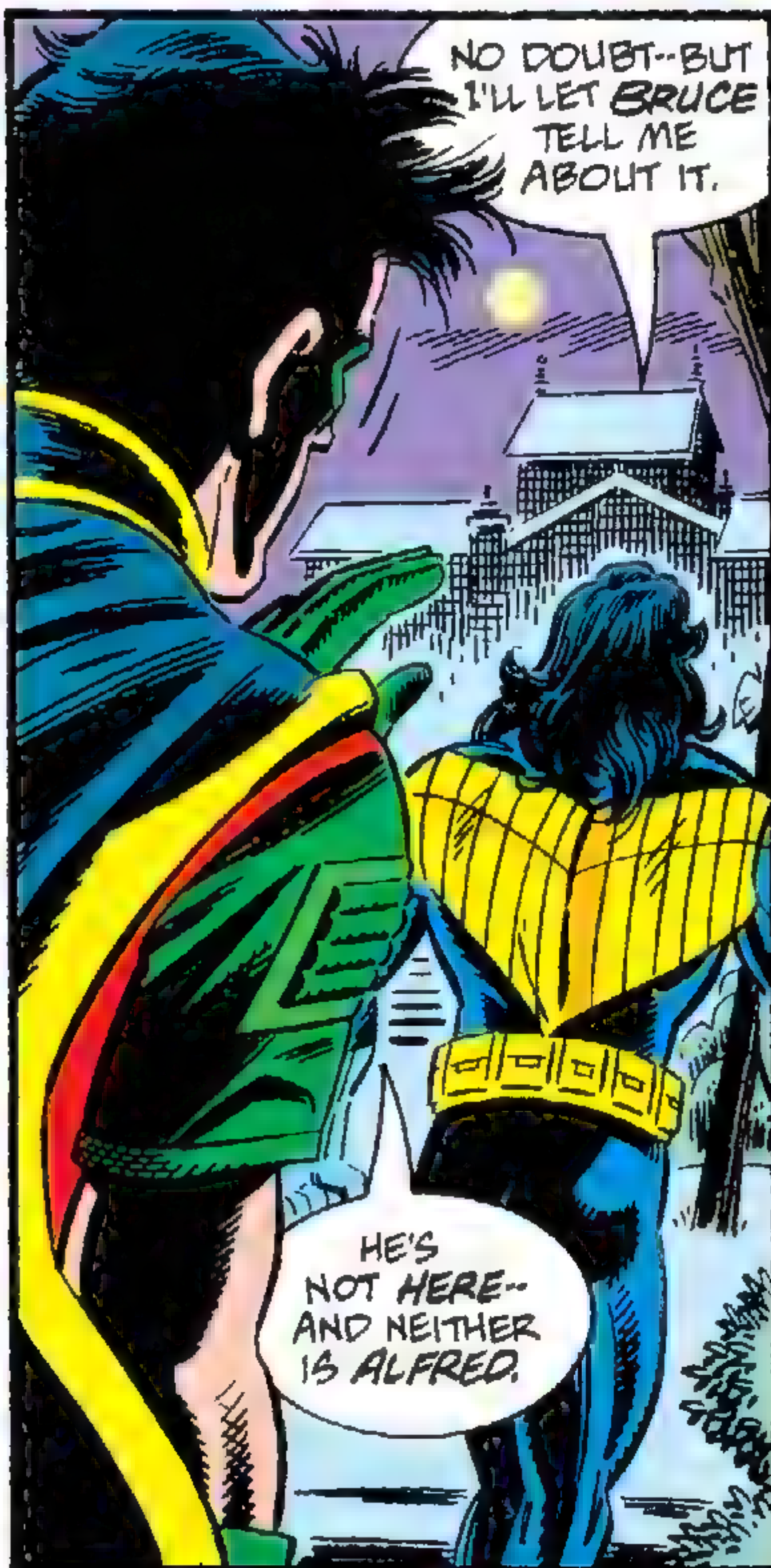
I HAD
TO LEARN
IT FROM
ORACLE.



UH,
SORRY...
BUT BRUCE
FIGURED IT'D
BE BEST TO
KEEP IT
SECRET.

EVEN
FROM
ME?

HEY,
IT'S BEEN KINDA
FRANTIC AROUND
HERE.



NO DOUBT--BUT
I'LL LET BRUCE
TELL ME
ABOUT IT.

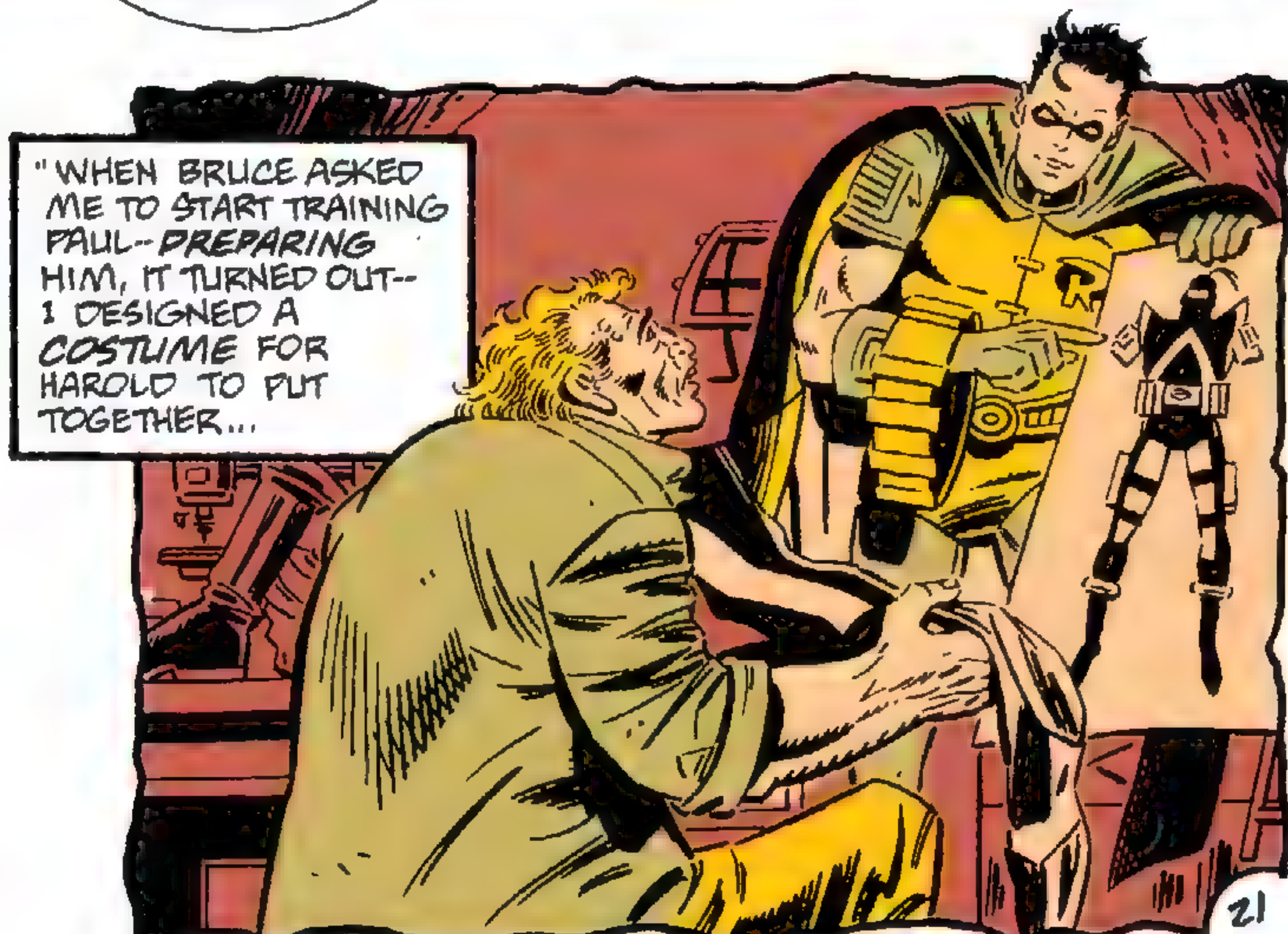
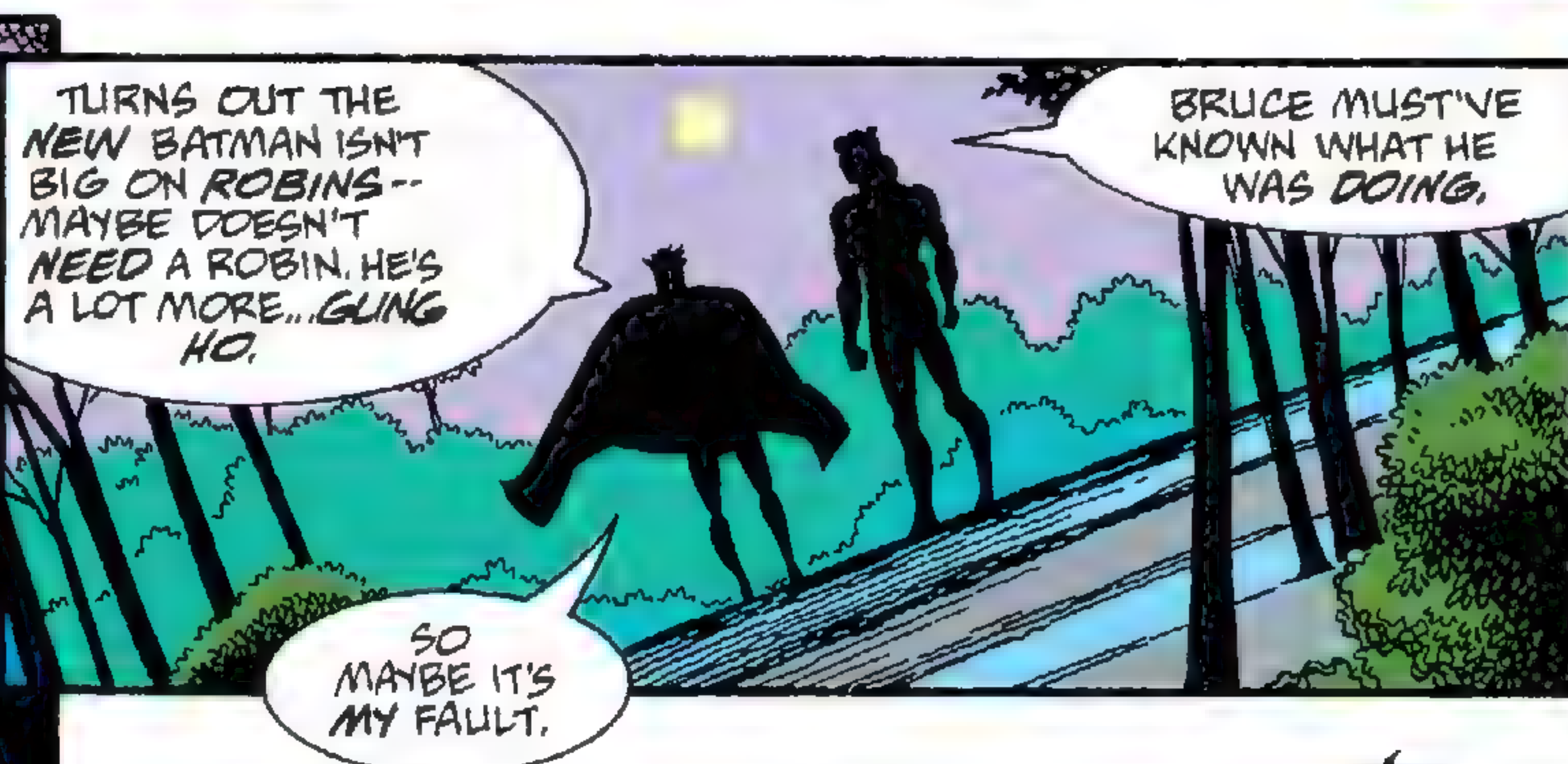
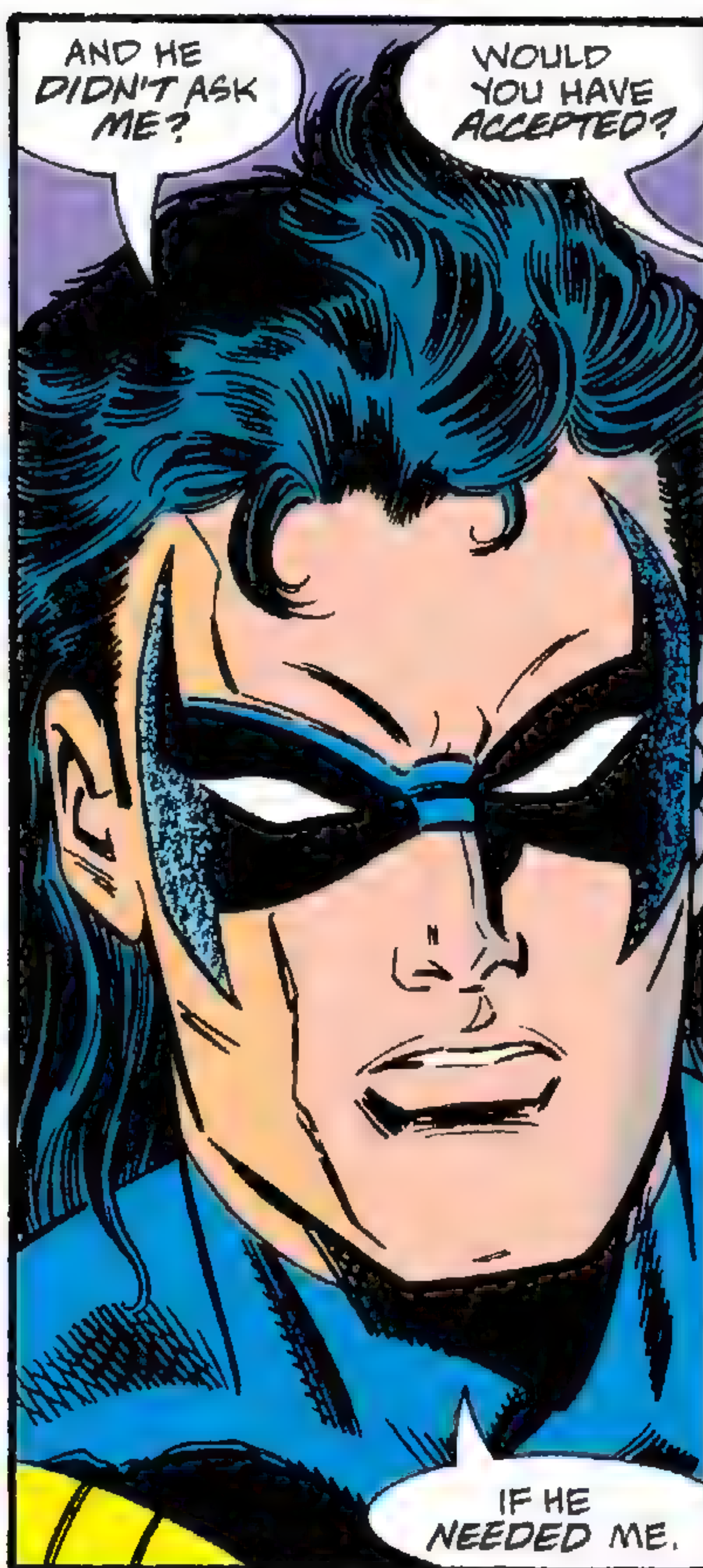
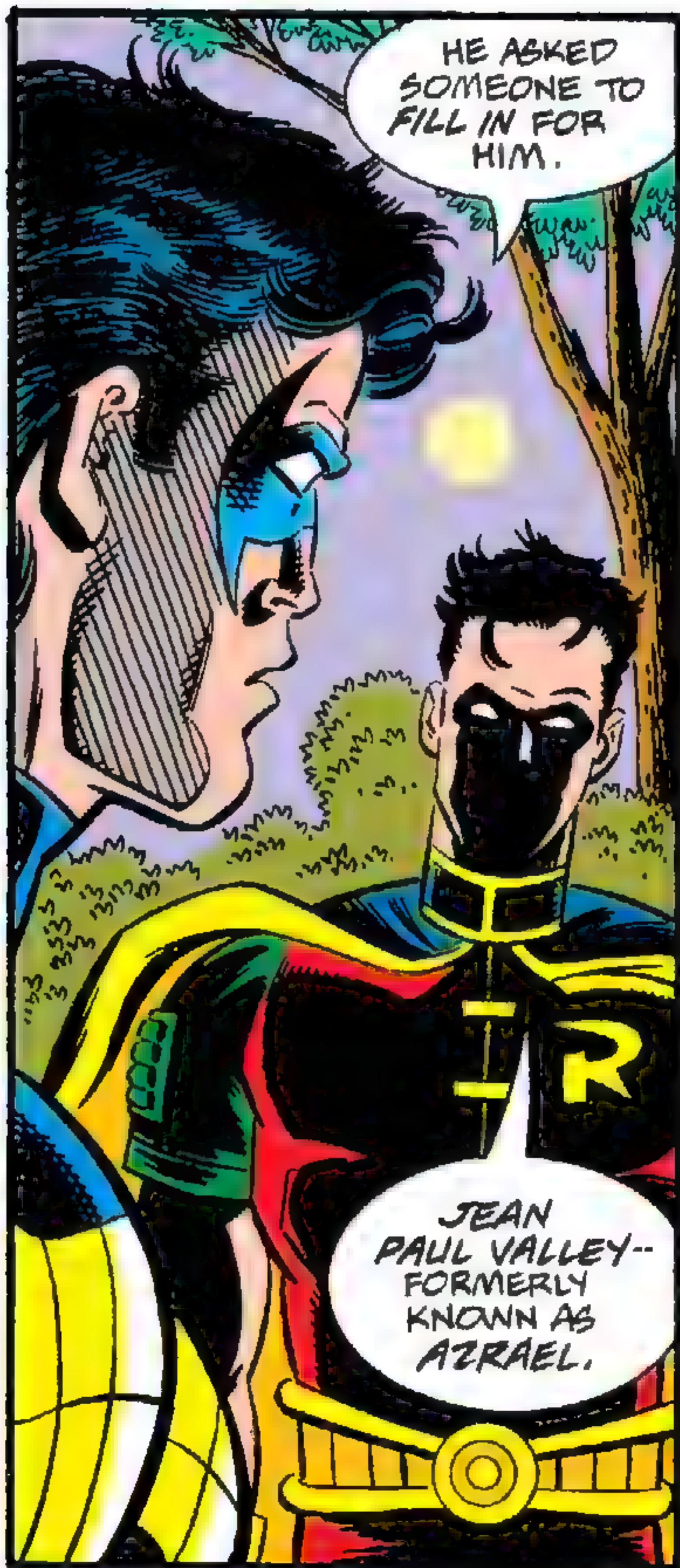
HE'S
NOT HERE--
AND NEITHER
IS ALFRED.

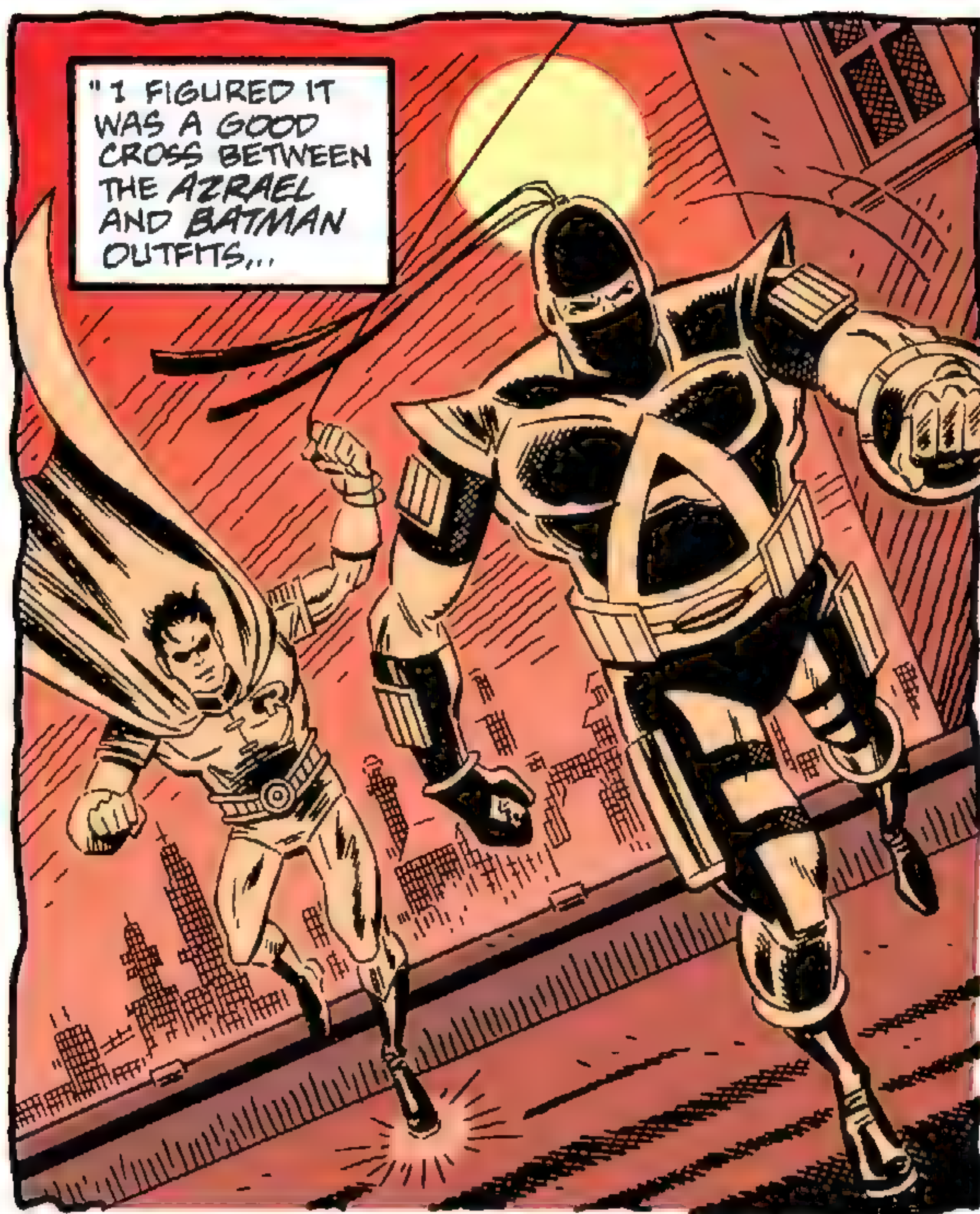


AND YET THE
BATMAN LOOMS
LARGE IN TODAY'S
NEWS.

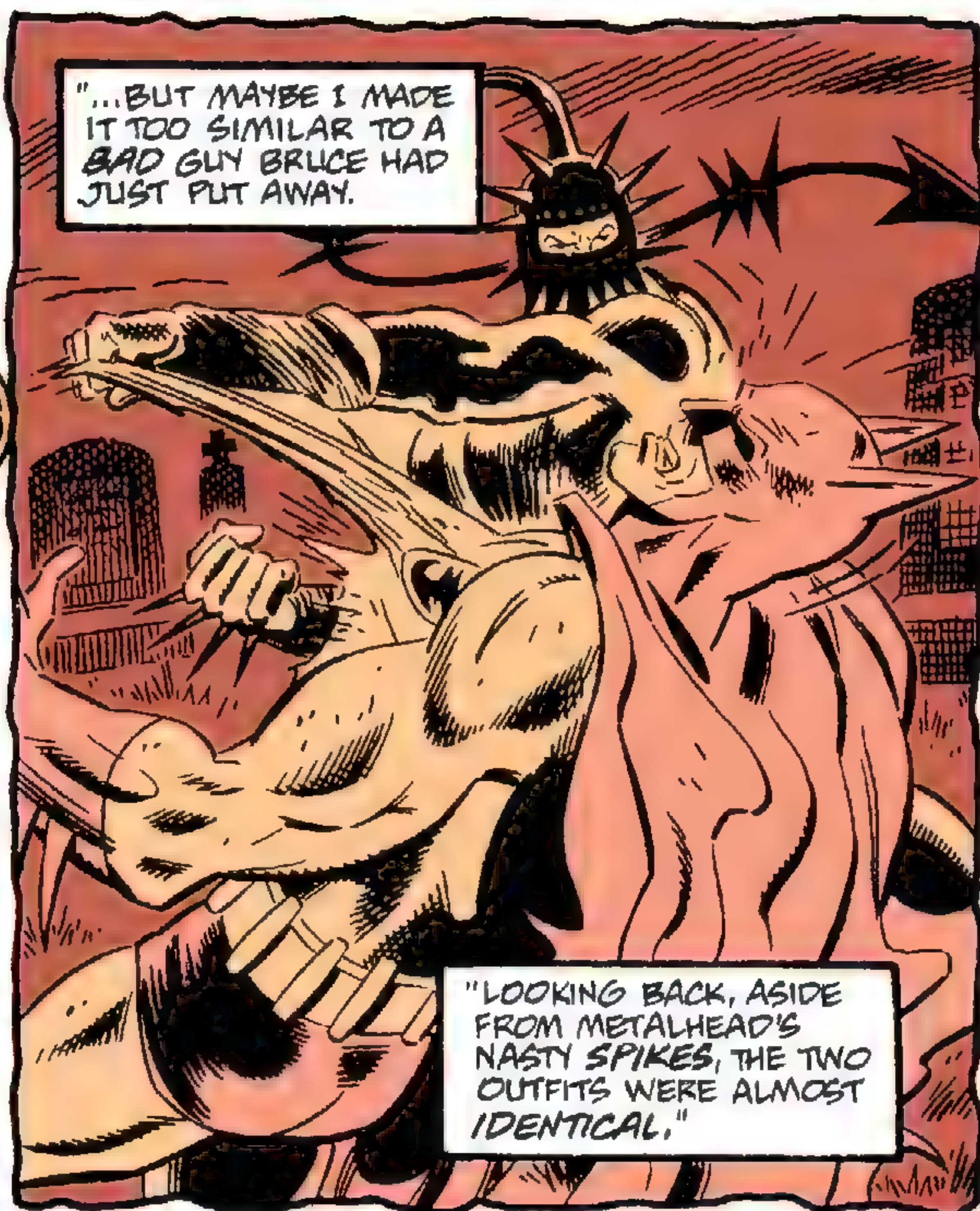
IT'S
NOT HIM,
NIGHTWING.

HE'S
OUT OF DANGER,
BUT...HE'S STILL IN
A WHEELCHAIR.





"I FIGURED IT WAS A GOOD CROSS BETWEEN THE AZRAEL AND BATMAN OUTFITS..."



"...BUT MAYBE I MADE IT TOO SIMILAR TO A BAD GUY BRUCE HAD JUST PUT AWAY."

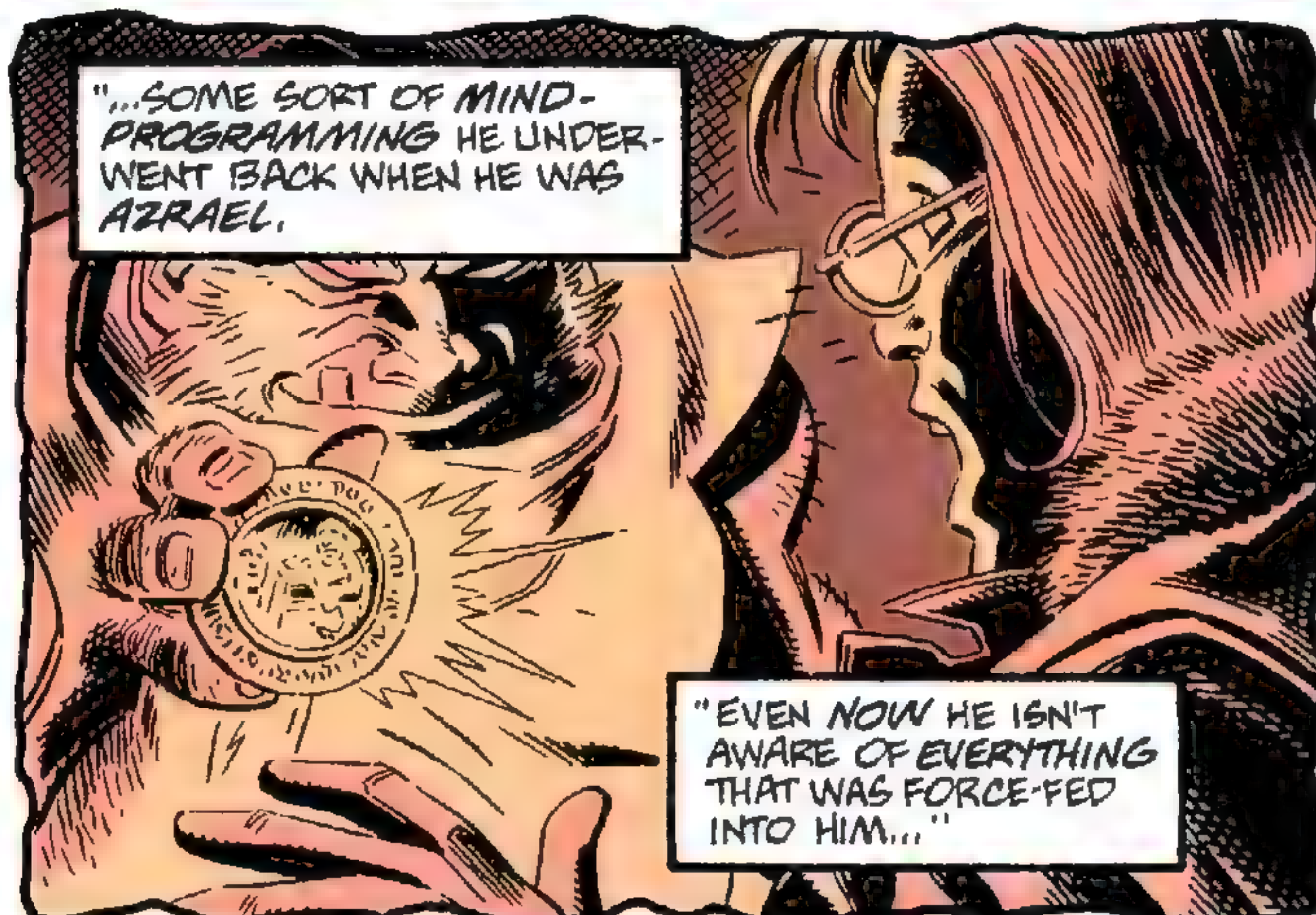
"LOOKING BACK, ASIDE FROM METALHEAD'S NASTY SPIKES, THE TWO OUTFITS WERE ALMOST IDENTICAL."



MAYBE IT GAVE PAUL SUBLIMINAL CUES--AND COMBINED WITH ALL THE WEIRD STUFF HIDDEN IN HIS HEAD...

COMBINED WITH WHAT?

HE CALLS IT "THE SYSTEM..."



"...SOME SORT OF MIND-PROGRAMMING HE UNDERWENT BACK WHEN HE WAS AZRAEL."

"EVEN NOW HE ISN'T AWARE OF EVERYTHING THAT WAS FORCE-FED INTO HIM..."



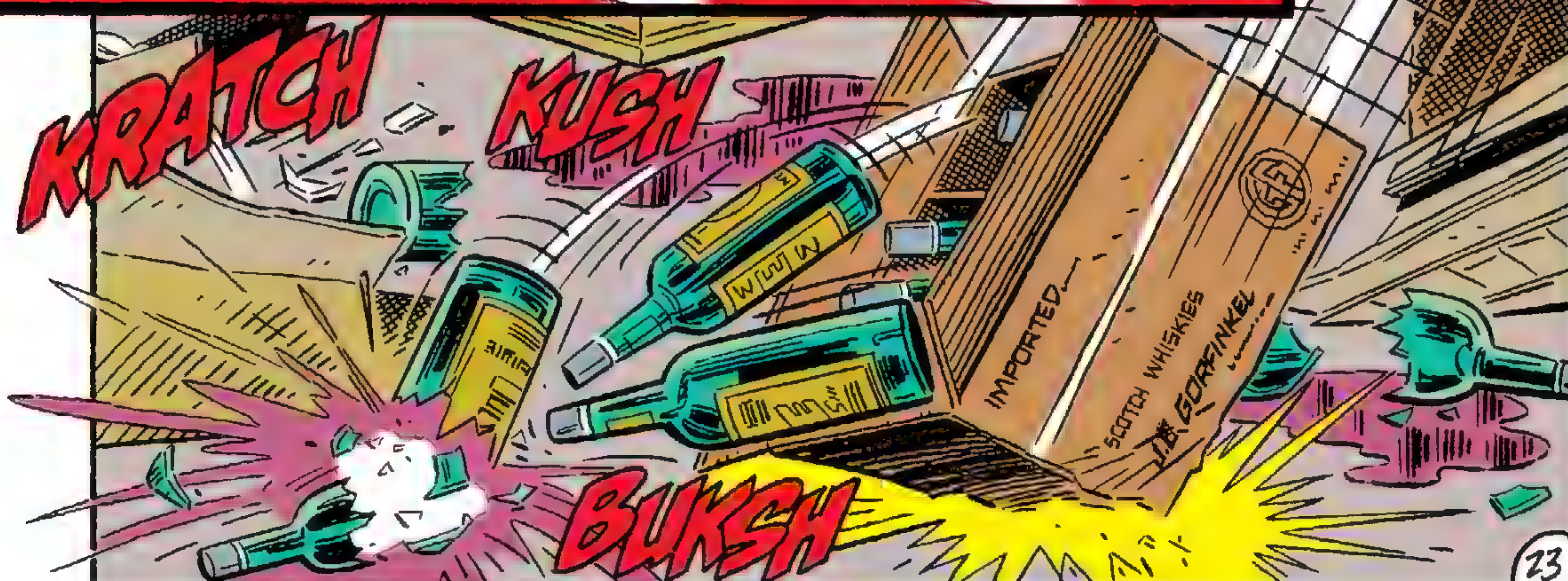
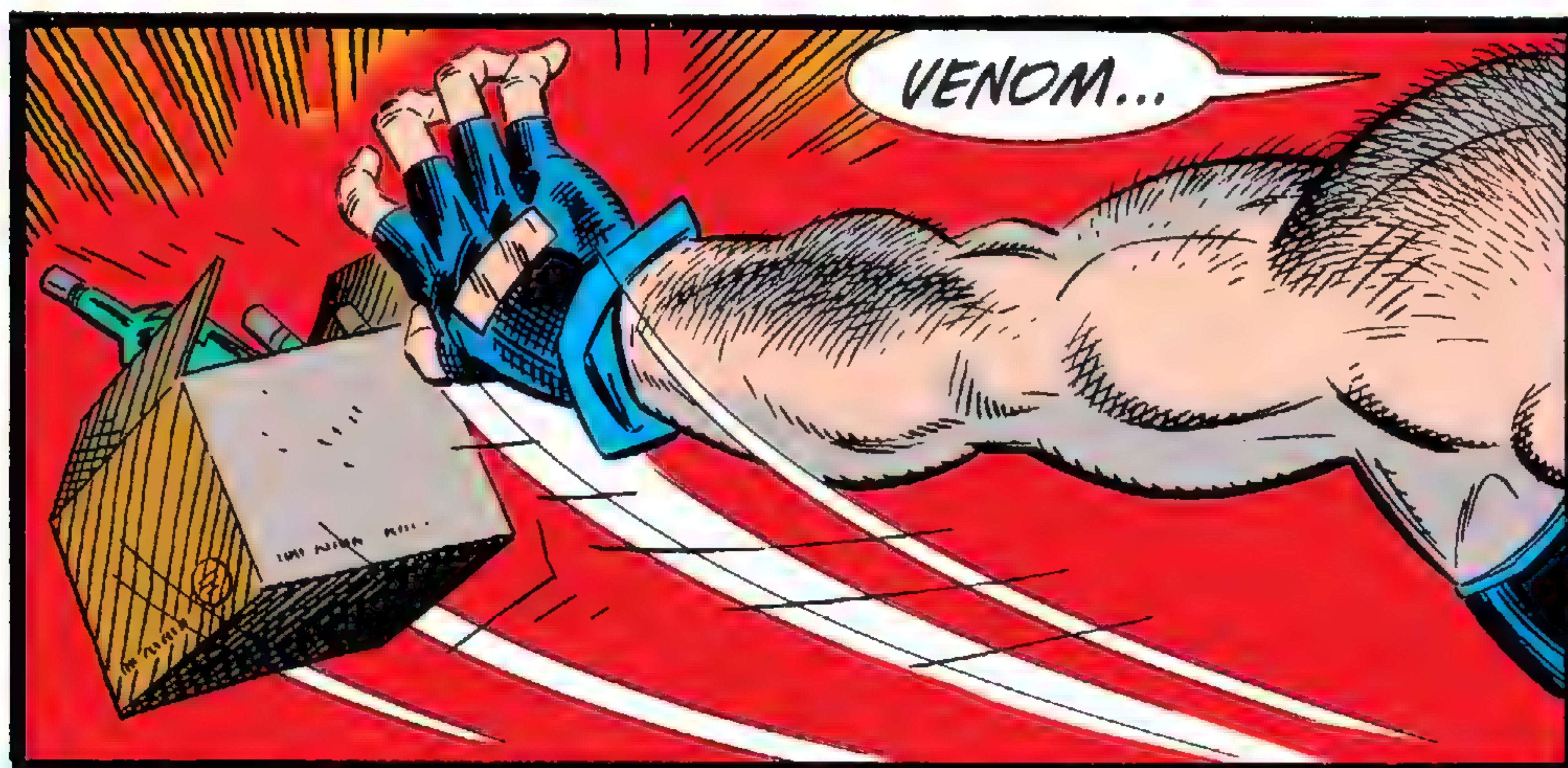
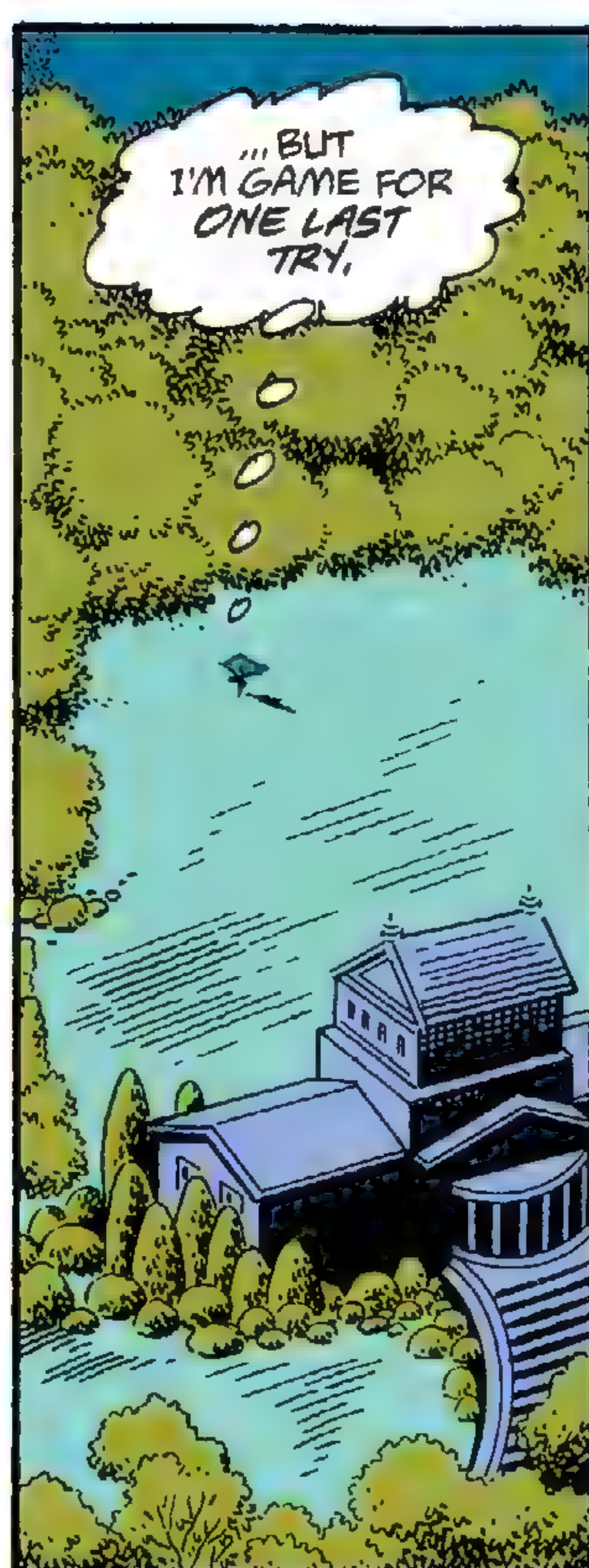
...BUT SINCE THE ORDER OF SAINT DUMAS WAS CREATING AN "AVENGING ANGEL"--AN ASSASSIN--IT CAN'T BE ALL GOOD...

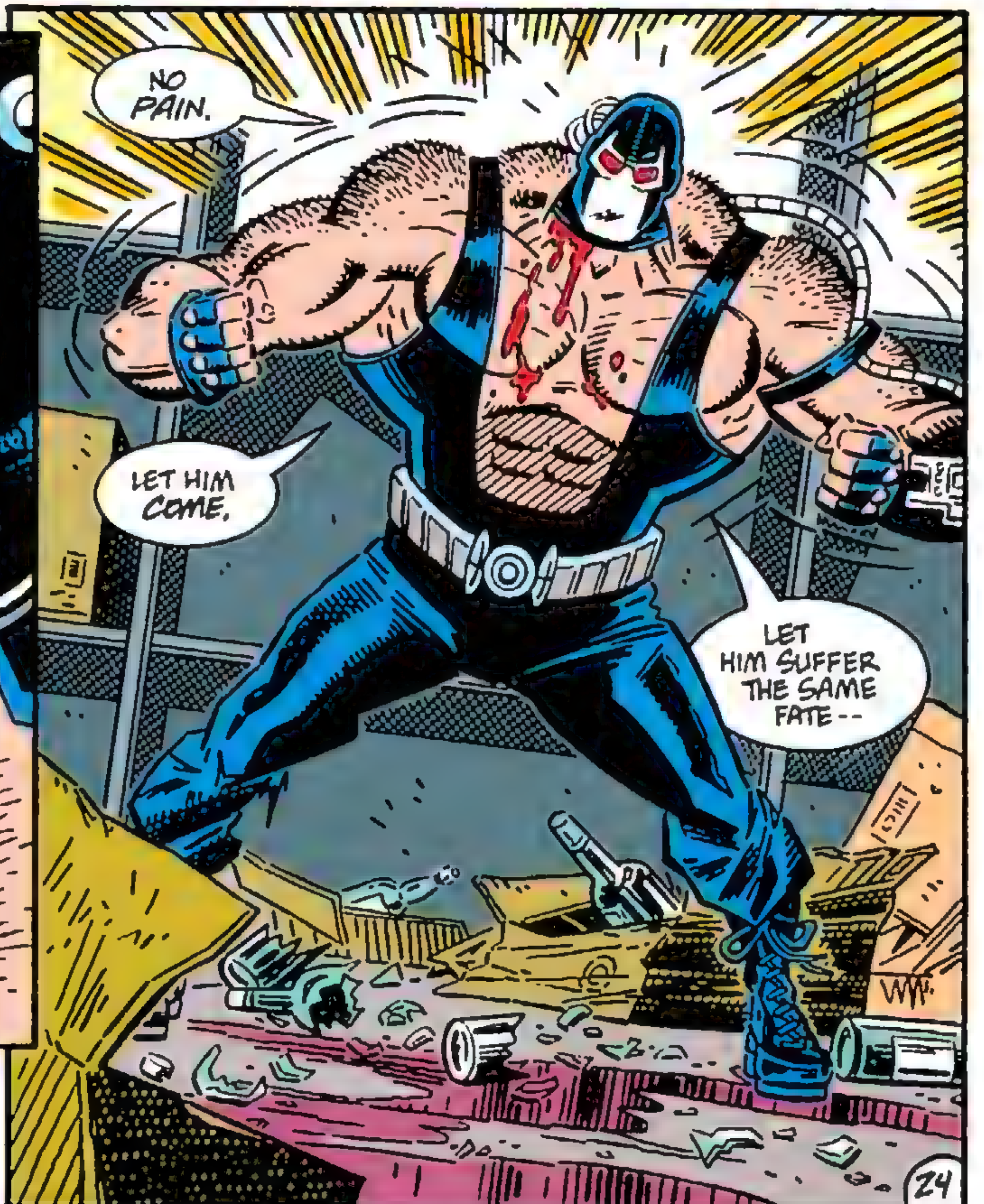
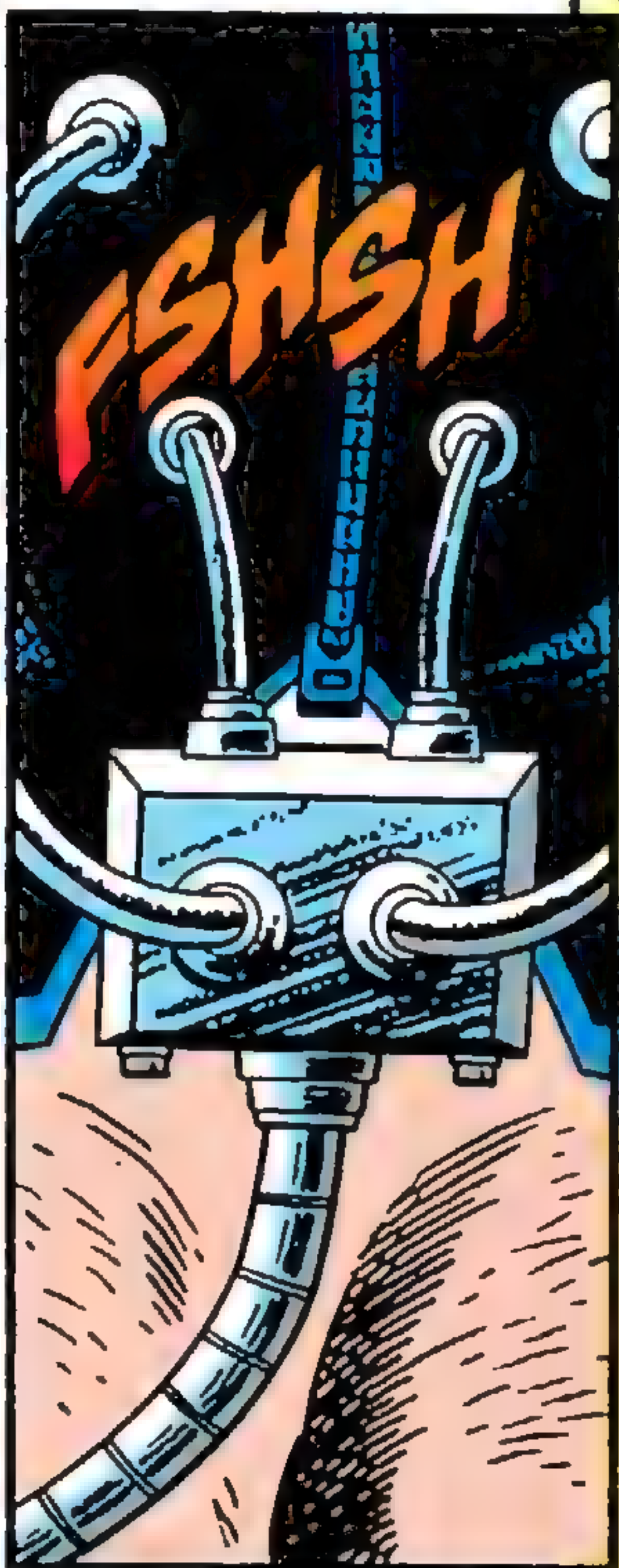
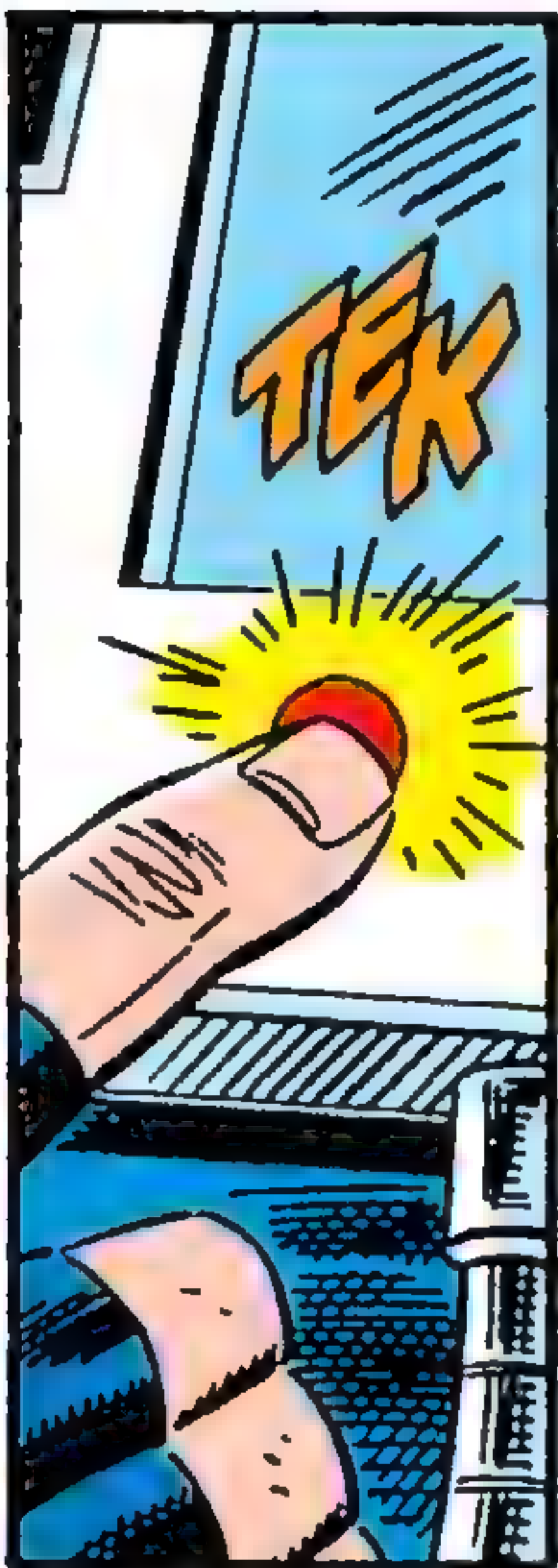
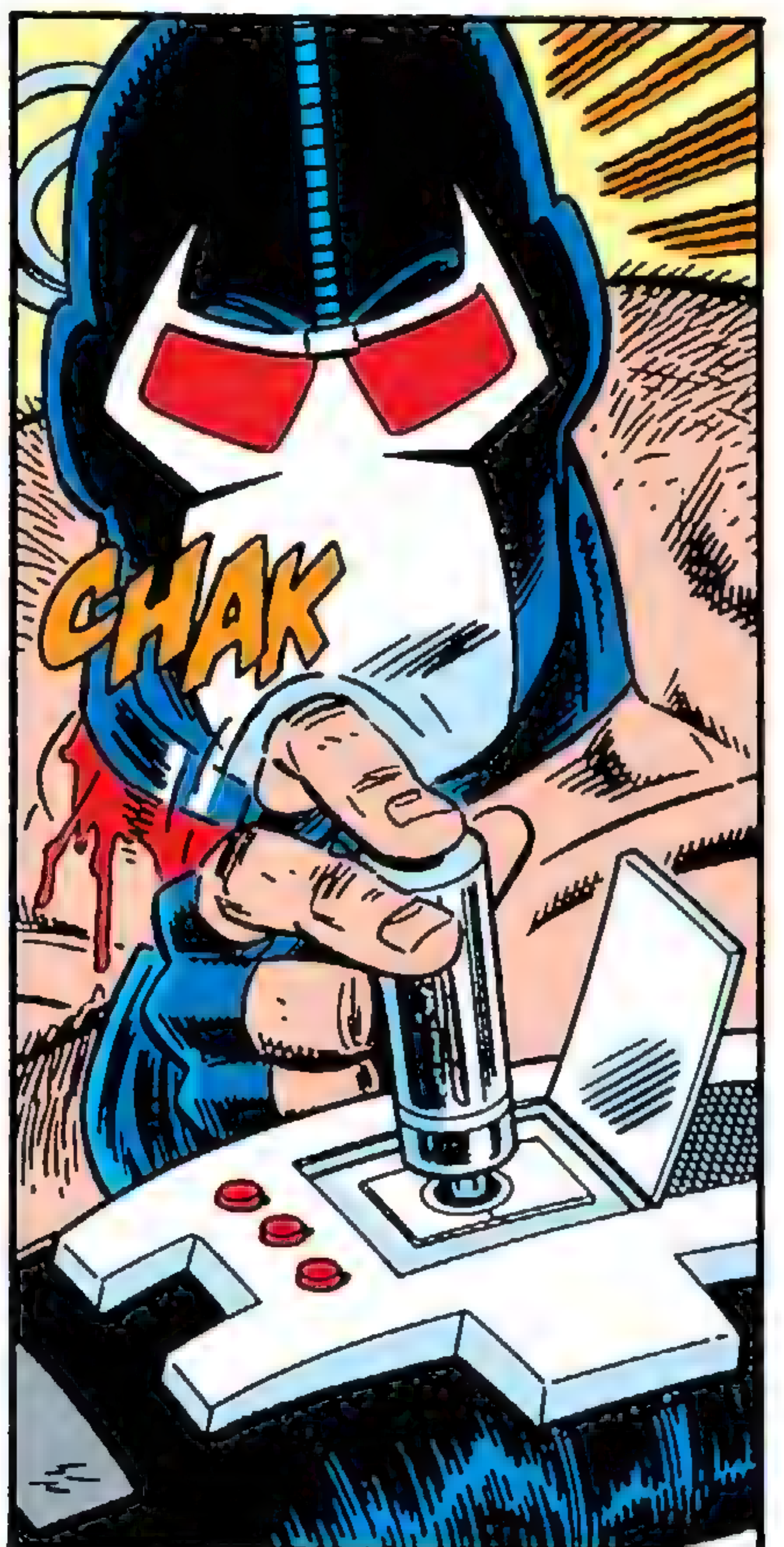
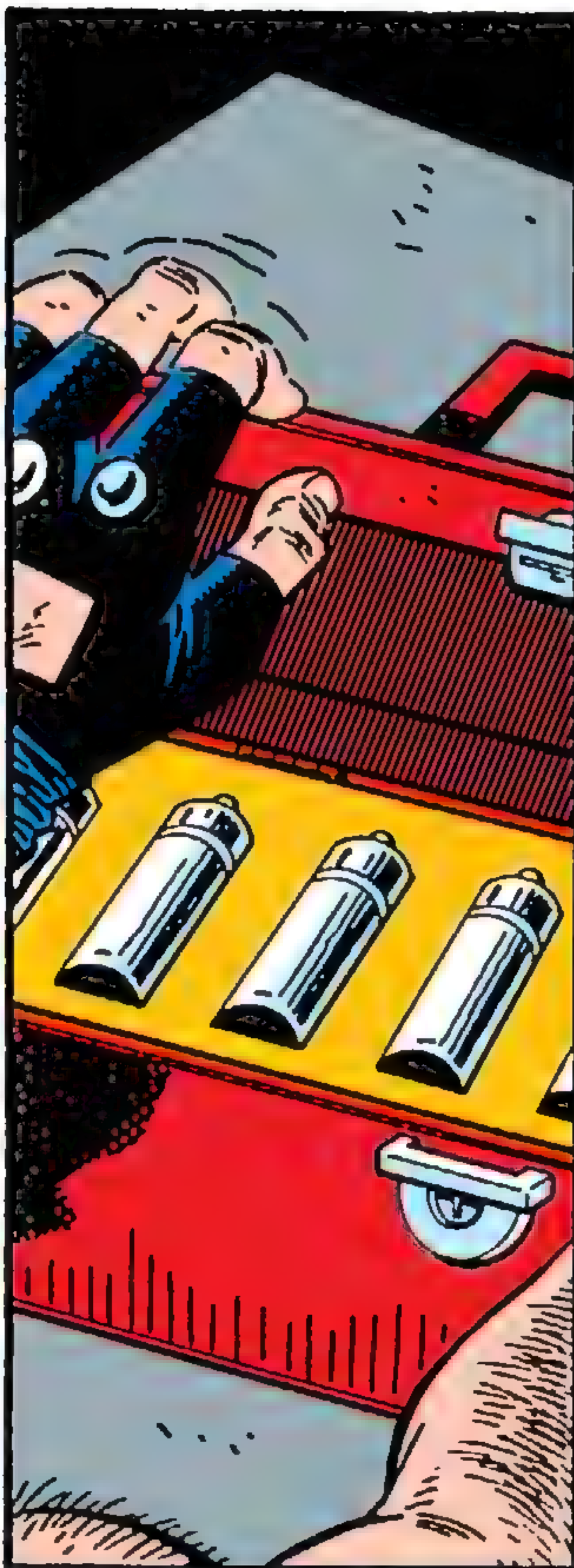
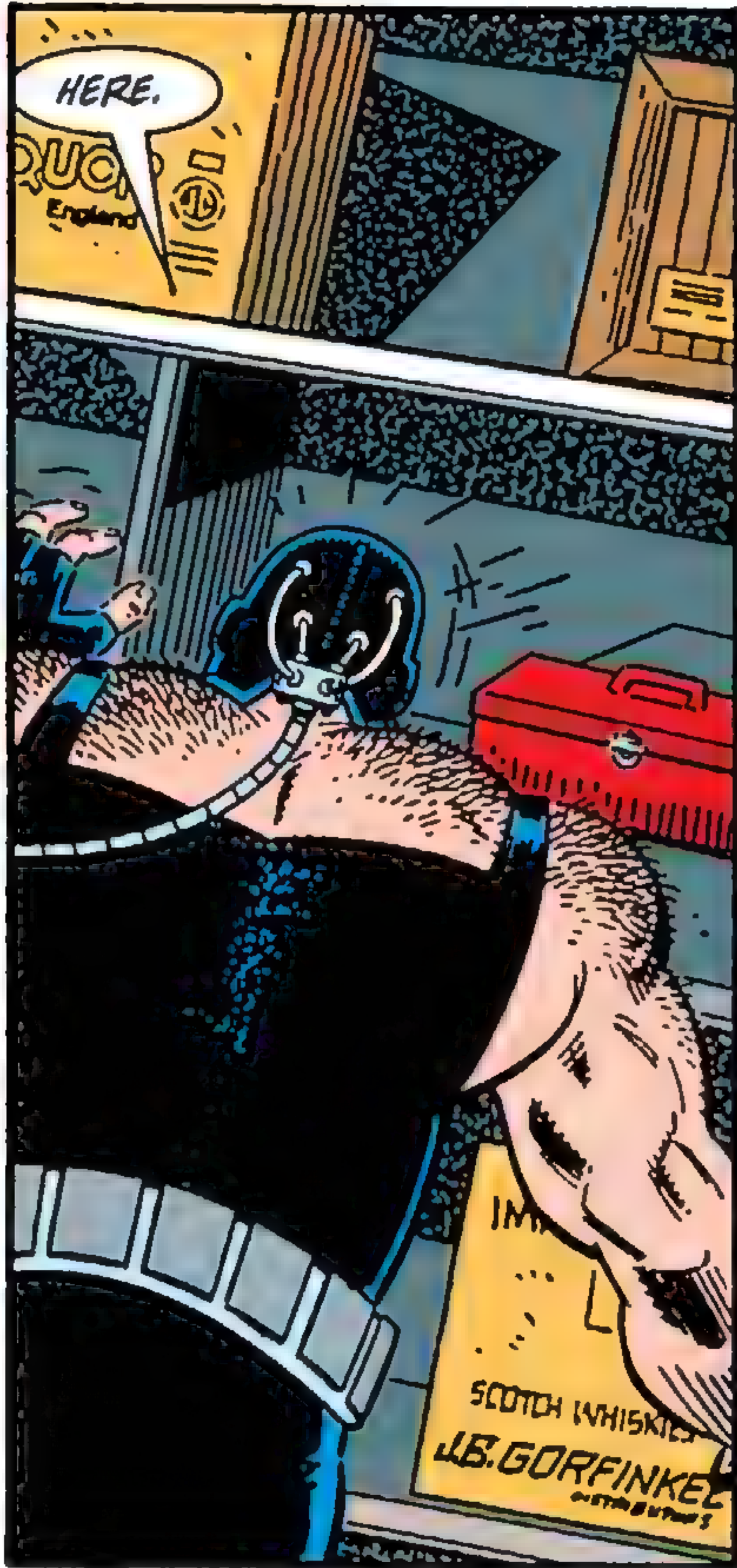
...EVEN THOUGH IT ENABLES HIM TO DO AMAZING THINGS WITHOUT KNOWING HE CAN DO THEM,

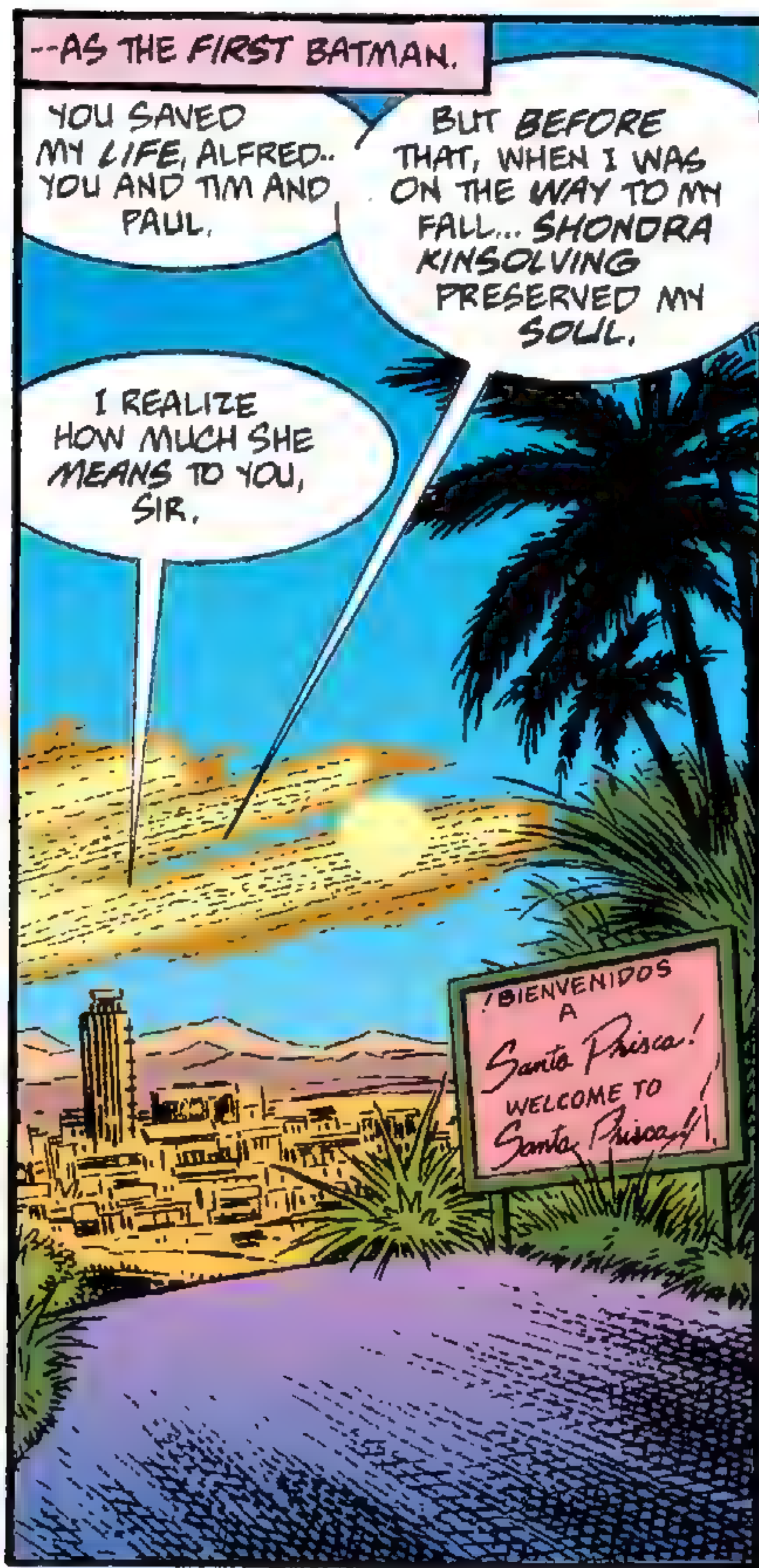


ANYWAY, THAT COSTUME HAROLD AND I PUT TOGETHER--MAYBE IT TRIGGERED SOME STUFF FROM "THE SYSTEM" AND MADE HIM--

NO-- IT'S STUPID TO BLAME YOURSELF.





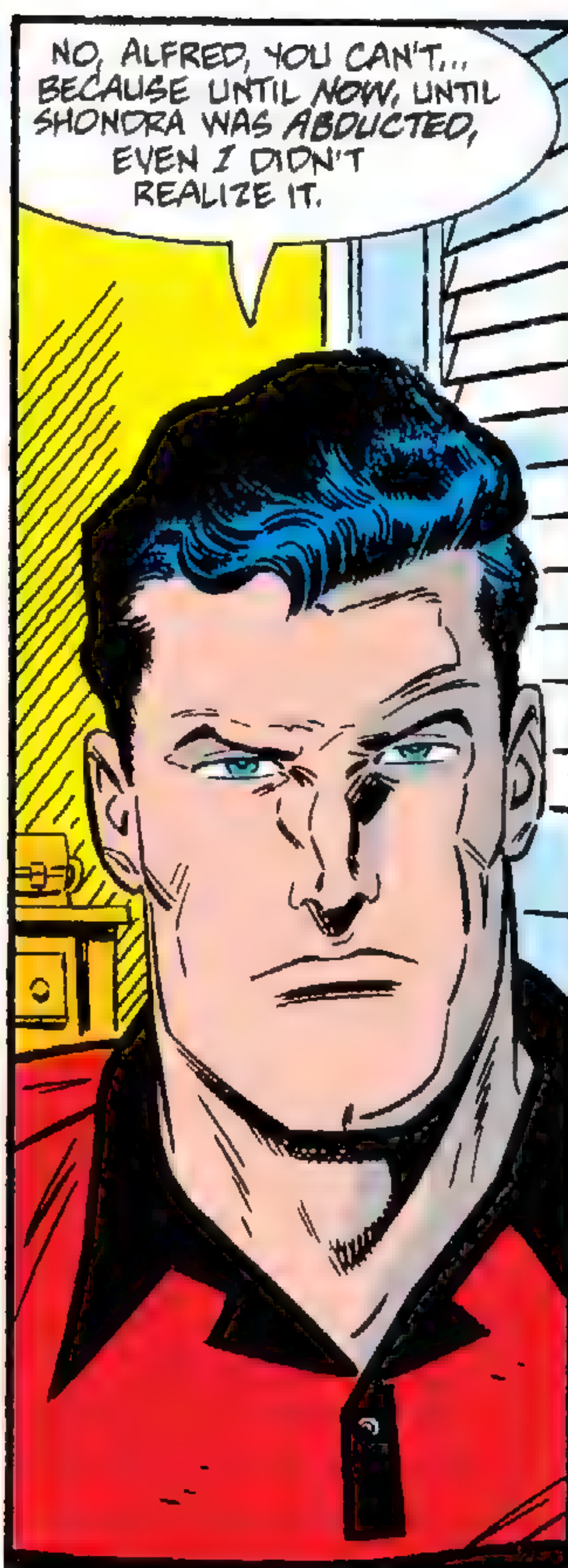


--AS THE FIRST BATMAN.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, ALFRED. YOU AND TIM AND PAUL.

BUT BEFORE THAT, WHEN I WAS ON THE WAY TO MY FALL... SHONDRA KINSOLVING PRESERVED MY SOUL.

I REALIZE HOW MUCH SHE MEANS TO YOU, SIR.



NO, ALFRED, YOU CAN'T... BECAUSE UNTIL NOW, UNTIL SHONDRA WAS ABDUCTED, EVEN I DIDN'T REALIZE IT.



"I WAS DEAD ON MY FEET WHEN I WENT TO HER, READY TO COLLAPSE, EVEN IF I WOULDN'T ADMIT IT..."

IF ANY MAN HAS THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME THIS, BRUCE, IT'S YOU.



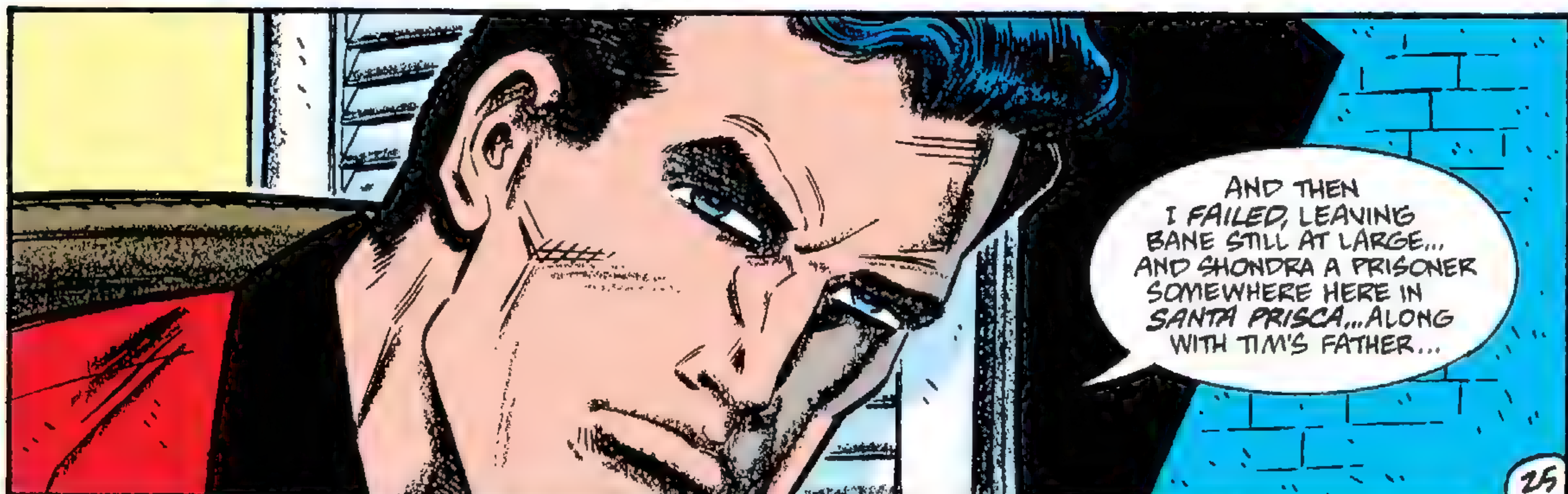
"BUT SHE TOOK ME IN HER HANDS, ALFRED, AND LIFTED ME UP."



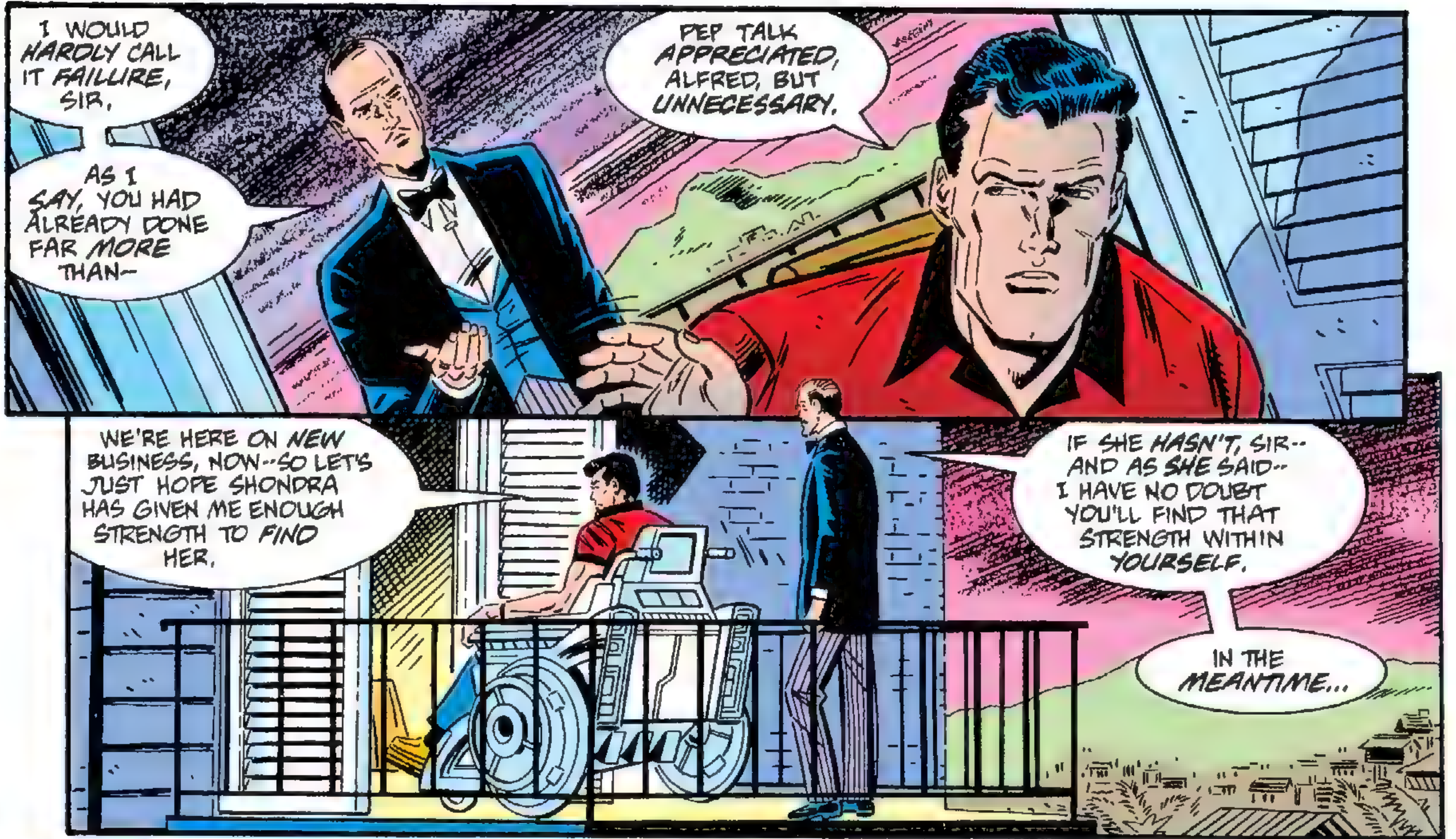
SHE'S A TRUE HEALER, ALFRED.

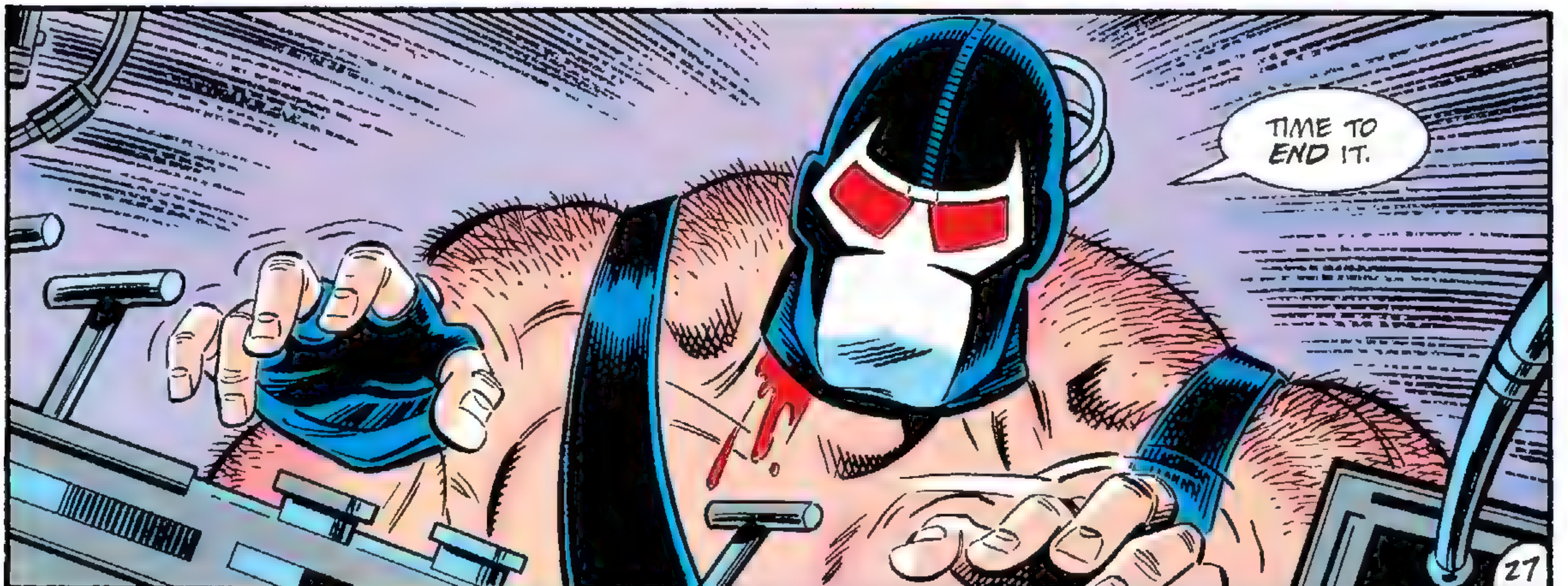
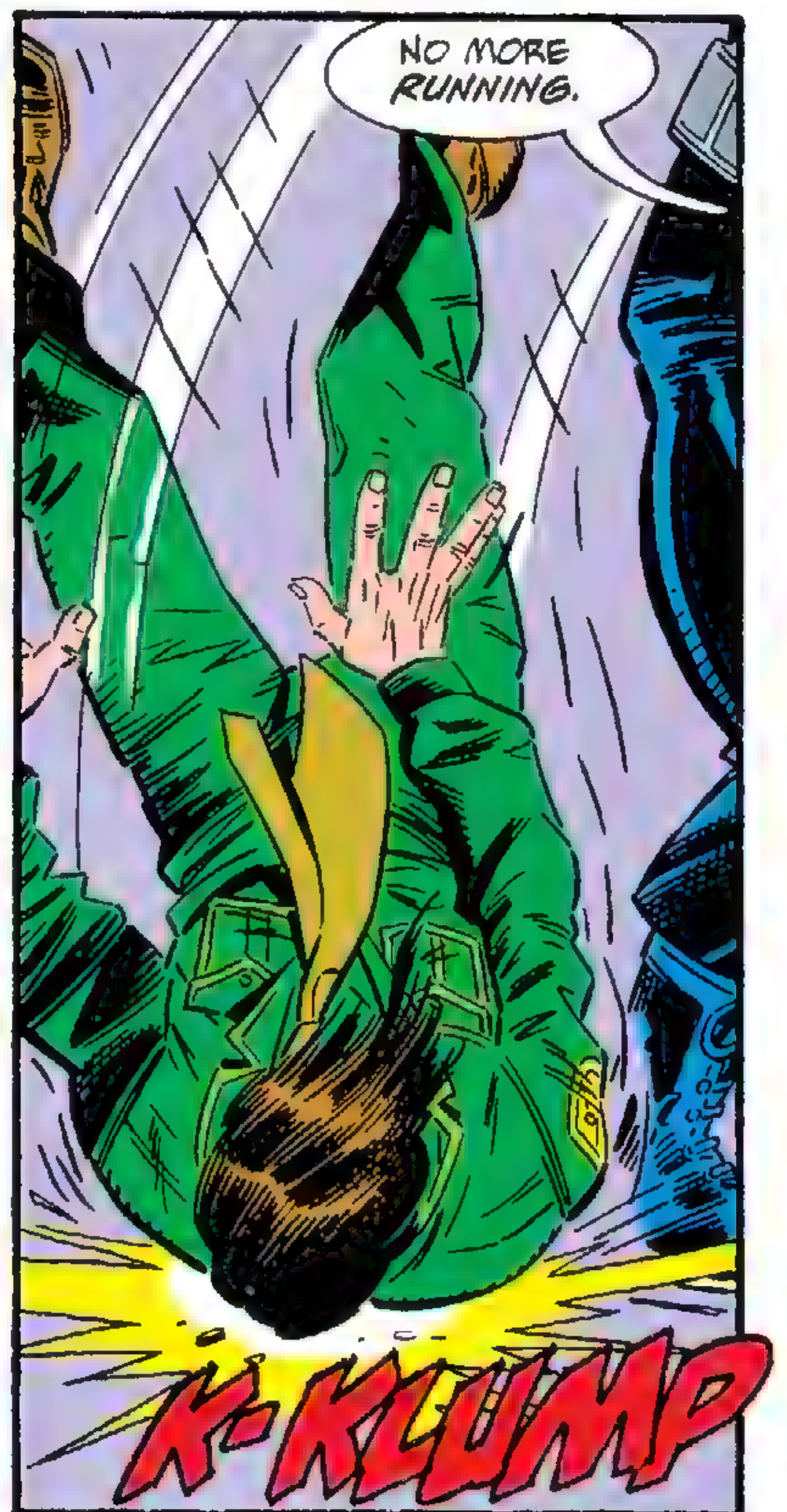
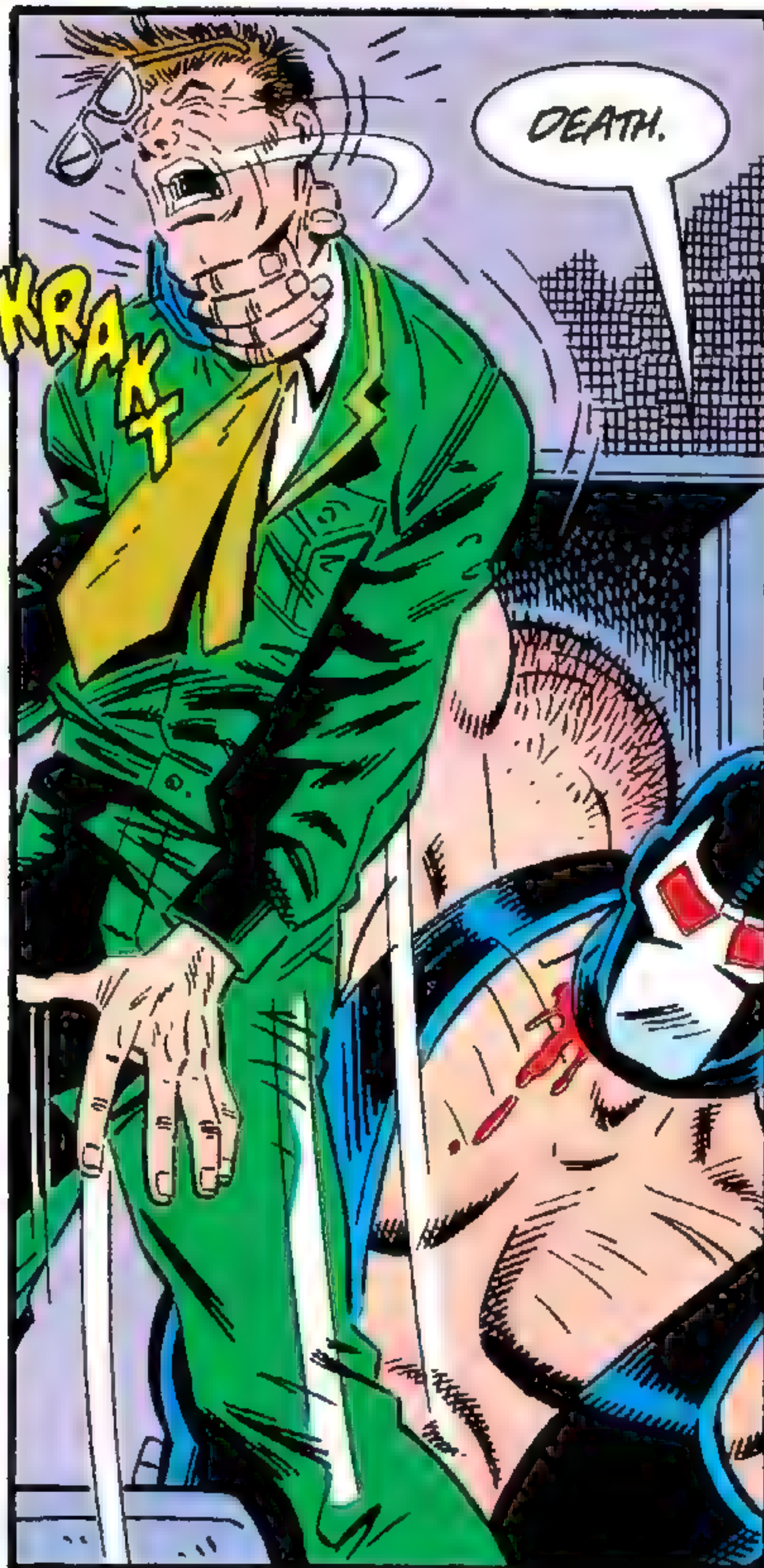
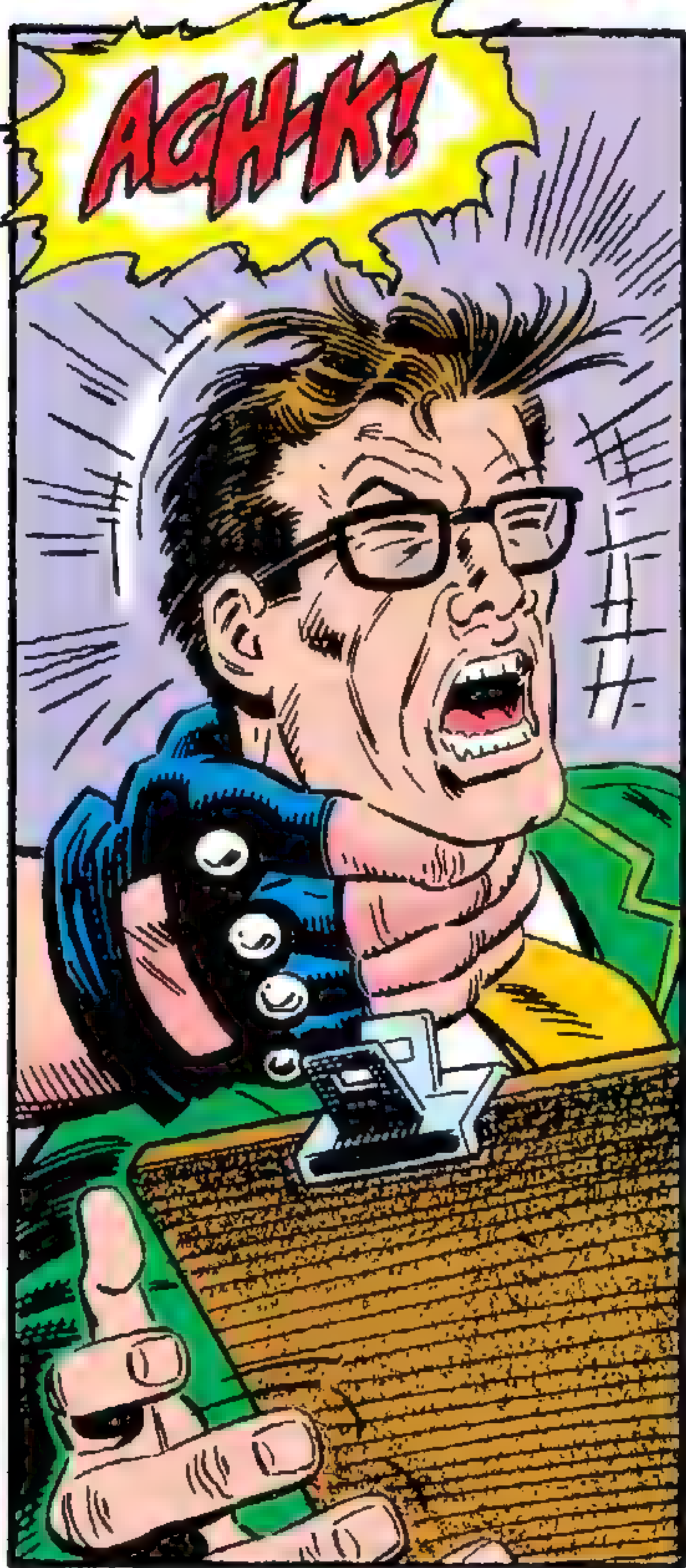
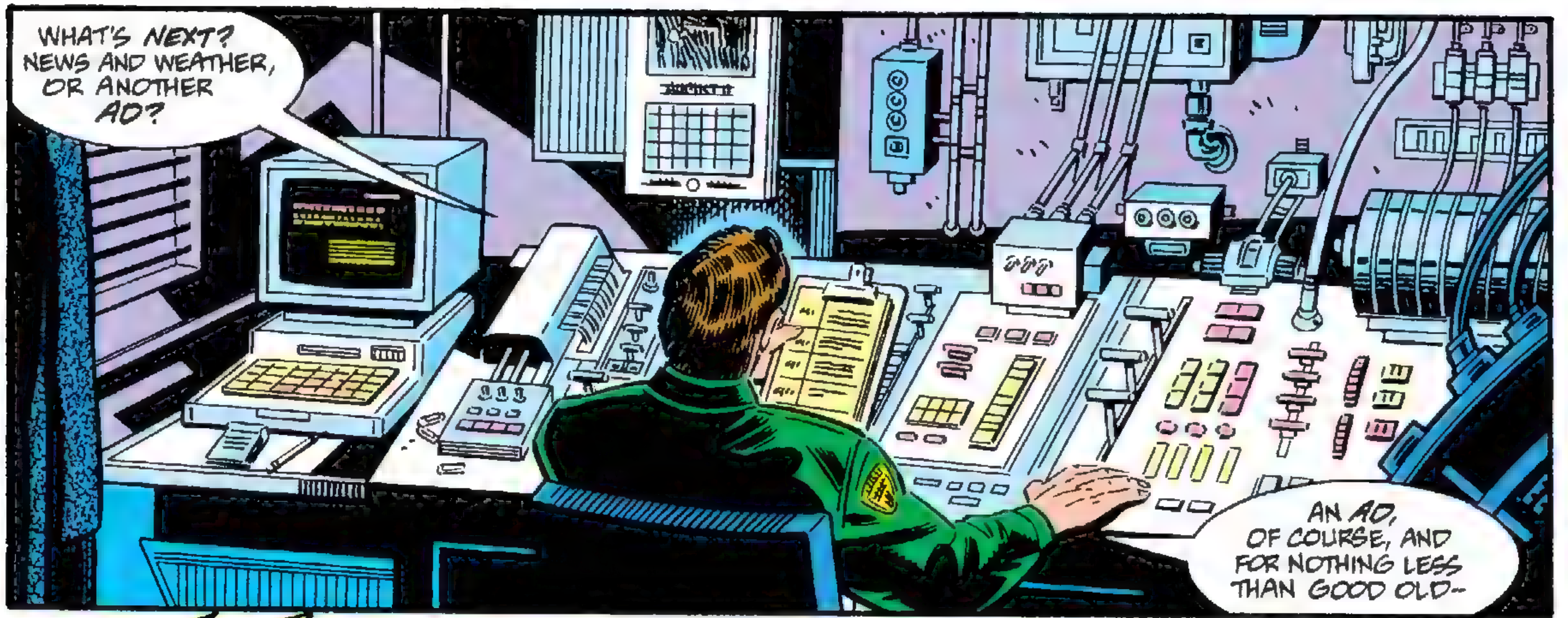
WITHOUT HER, I'M NOT SURE I COULD HAVE GONE ON... NOT SURE I COULD HAVE FACED ALL THOSE ARKHAM INMATES FREED BY BANE...

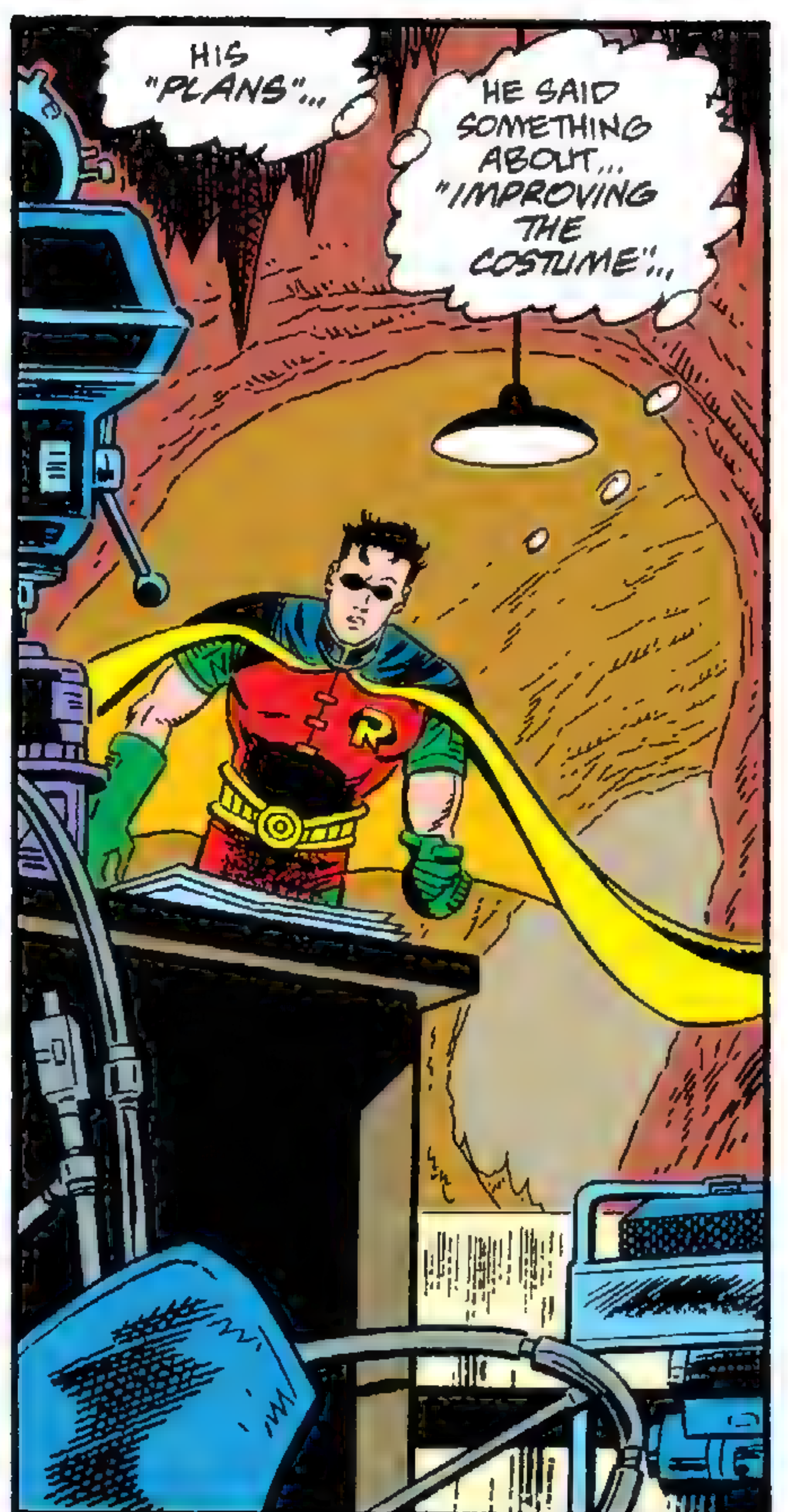
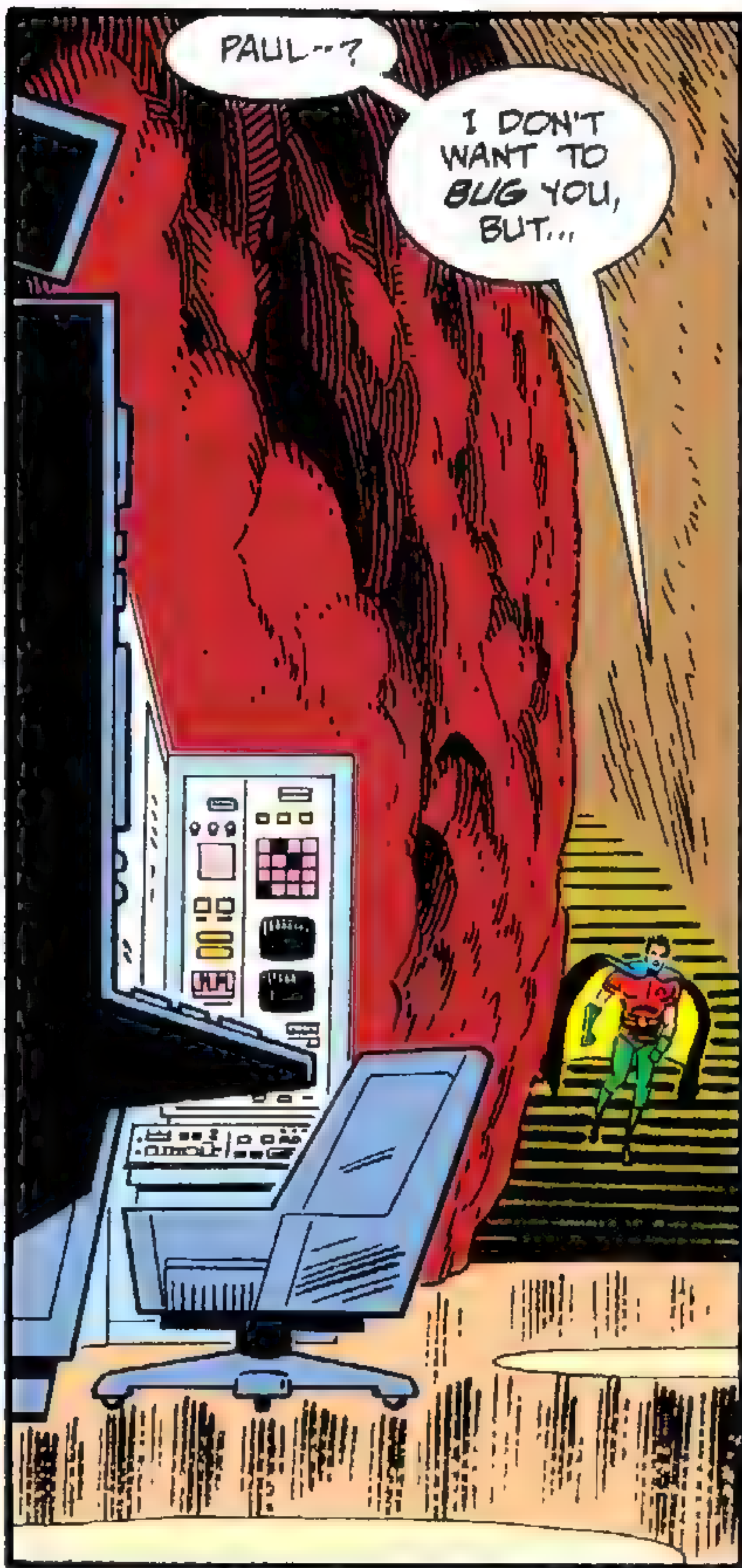
YOU DID FAR MORE, SIR, THAN COULD BE EXPECTED OF ANY MAN.



AND THEN I FAILED, LEAVING BANE STILL AT LARGE... AND SHONDRA A PRISONER SOMEWHERE HERE IN SANTA PRISCA... ALONG WITH TIM'S FATHER...







II: the descent

SOMEHOW THE NIGHT HAS BECOME
A VAST OCEAN THROUGH WHICH
HE SWIMS, BUOYED AND WEIGHTLESS
ABOVE A GOTHIC ATLANTIS DRENCHED
IN DARK WONDER AND SECRET SIN.

IT IS A PLACE LONG SINCE
CURSED BY A FLOOD FROM
HEAVEN, AND FORSAKEN
BY TRUE LIGHT.

A DARK ANGEL ON SPREAD WINGS, HE FALLS CLOSER TO THE CORE, THE ONLY ONE WILLING TO DESCEND DEEPER...

...ALL PAIN AND STIFFNESS WASHED AWAY BY THE SEA, LOST IN A PART OF HIS MIND HE NO LONGER KNOWS, AS HE SEARCHES.

FOR A SIGN.

YOUR MESSAGE HERE
FOR DETAILS
5-2323

AND
MY MESSAGE
IS...

"BAT."

"BATMAN" NOW

KCHIK
CHAKT

THE OCEAN RECEDES
NOW, DISPLACED BY
BRACING WIND.

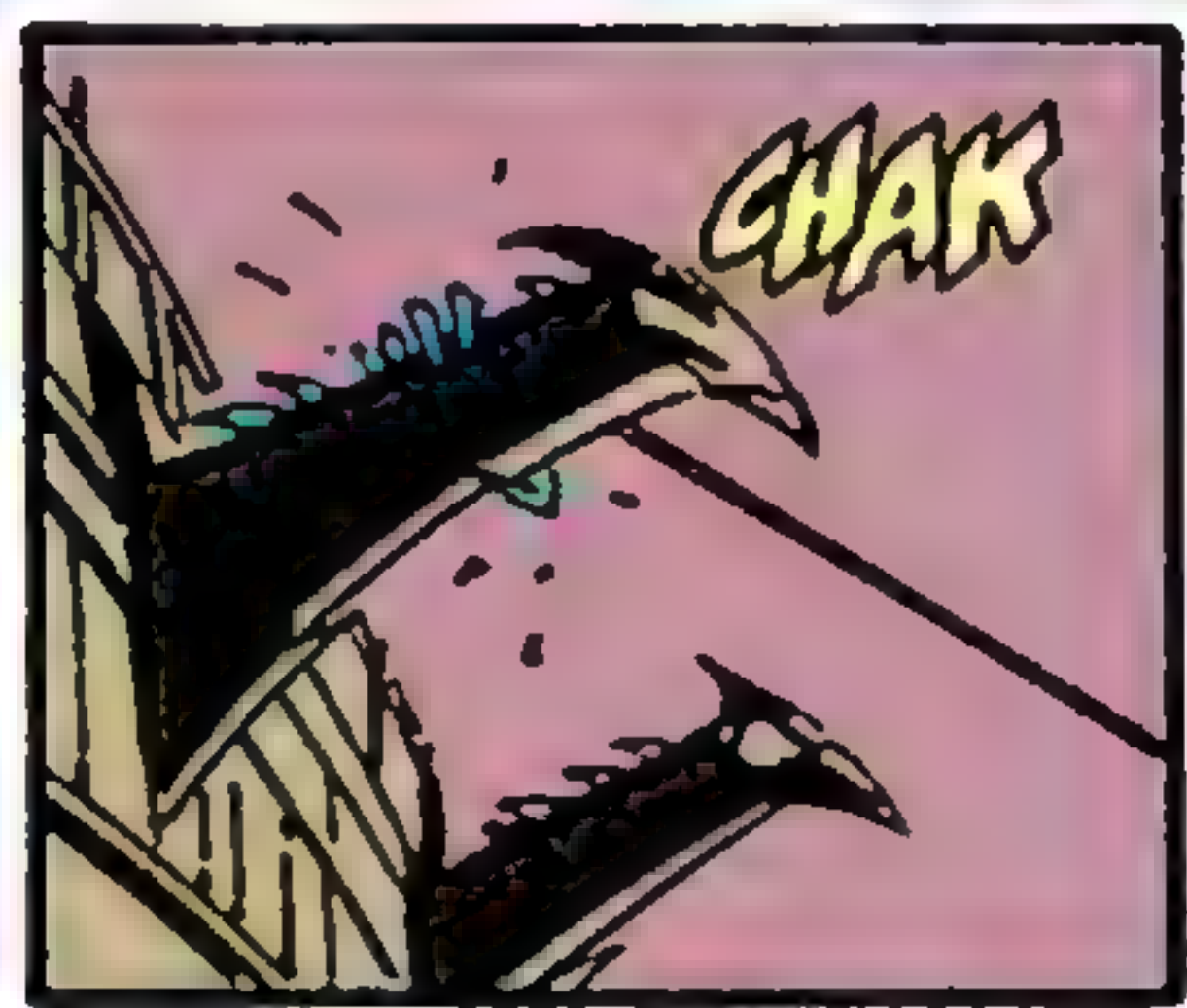
CHUP

IT CLEARS HIS
MIND OF THE
DREAMLIKE SLEEP.

HE IS ALERT NOW, OUT OF THE
OCEAN, OUT OF THE COCOON,
A NEW CREATURE DRYING IN
THE BITING AIR.

HIS NEW CAPE GRABS
THE WIND, SWELLING
ON ITS LIFT, NO
LONGER A HINDRANCE.

CHFF



CHAK

HAUNTING.

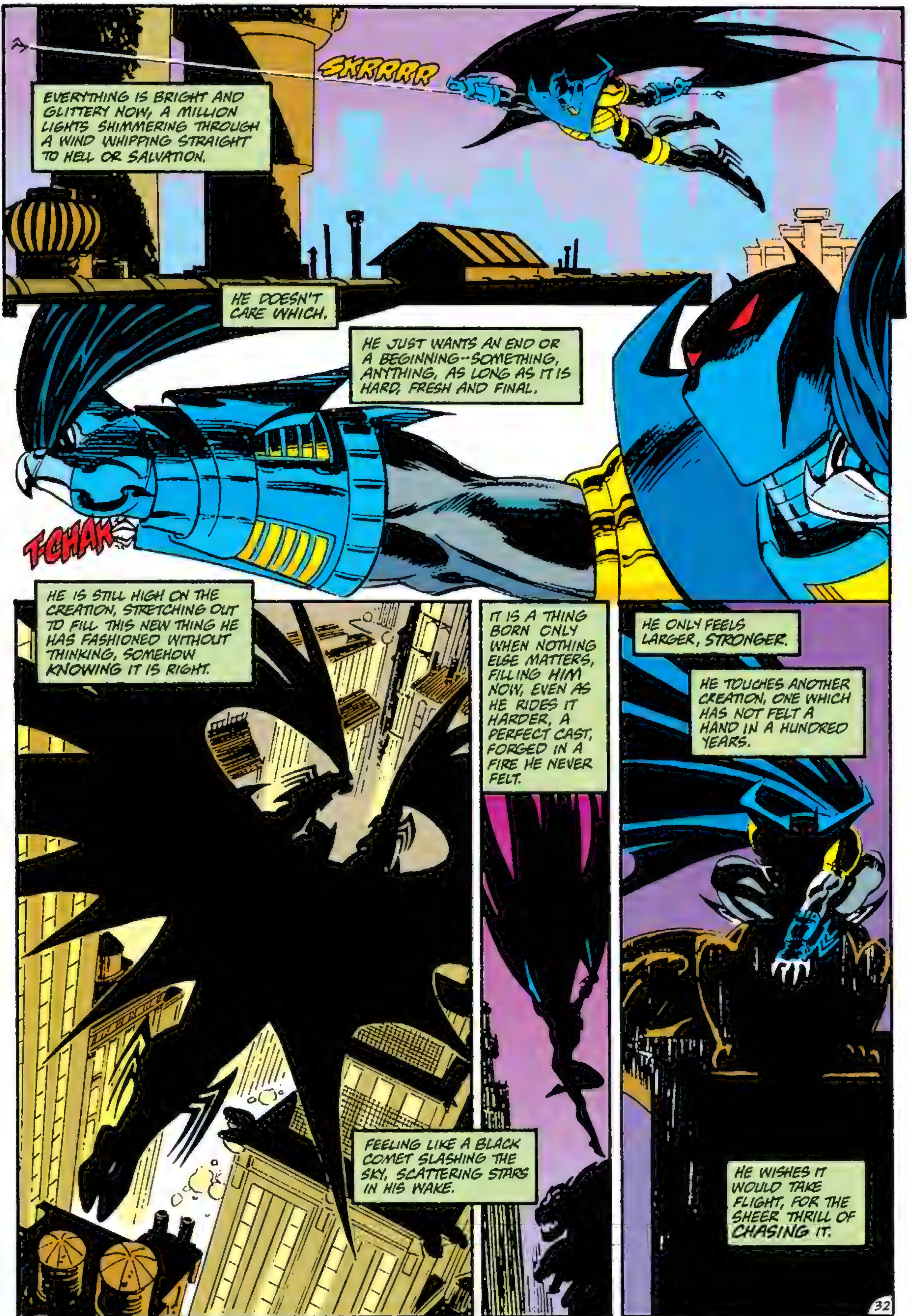
HE HEARS IT AS HE
GLIDES, SOFTLY AT
FIRST, DISTANT AND
ECHOING.

THEN IT RISES, A SOUND NOT
UNLIKE A WOMAN'S VOICE,
KEENING HIGHER AND LOUDER
AND CLOSER UNTIL IT FILLS HIS
HEART WITH ITS UNGEARTHY
THRILL,

IT IS THE WILD
NIGHT SCREAMING
FOR HIS SOUL.

HE
RIDES
IT.

CHFF



EVERYTHING IS BRIGHT AND GLITTERY NOW, A MILLION LIGHTS SHIMMERING THROUGH A WIND WHIPPING STRAIGHT TO HELL OR SALVATION.

SKRRRR

HE DOESN'T CARE WHICH.

HE JUST WANTS AN END OR A BEGINNING--SOMETHING, ANYTHING, AS LONG AS IT IS HARD, FRESH AND FINAL.

TCHAH

HE IS STILL HIGH ON THE CREATION, STRETCHING OUT TO FILL THIS NEW THING HE HAS FASHIONED WITHOUT THINKING, SOMEHOW KNOWING IT IS RIGHT.

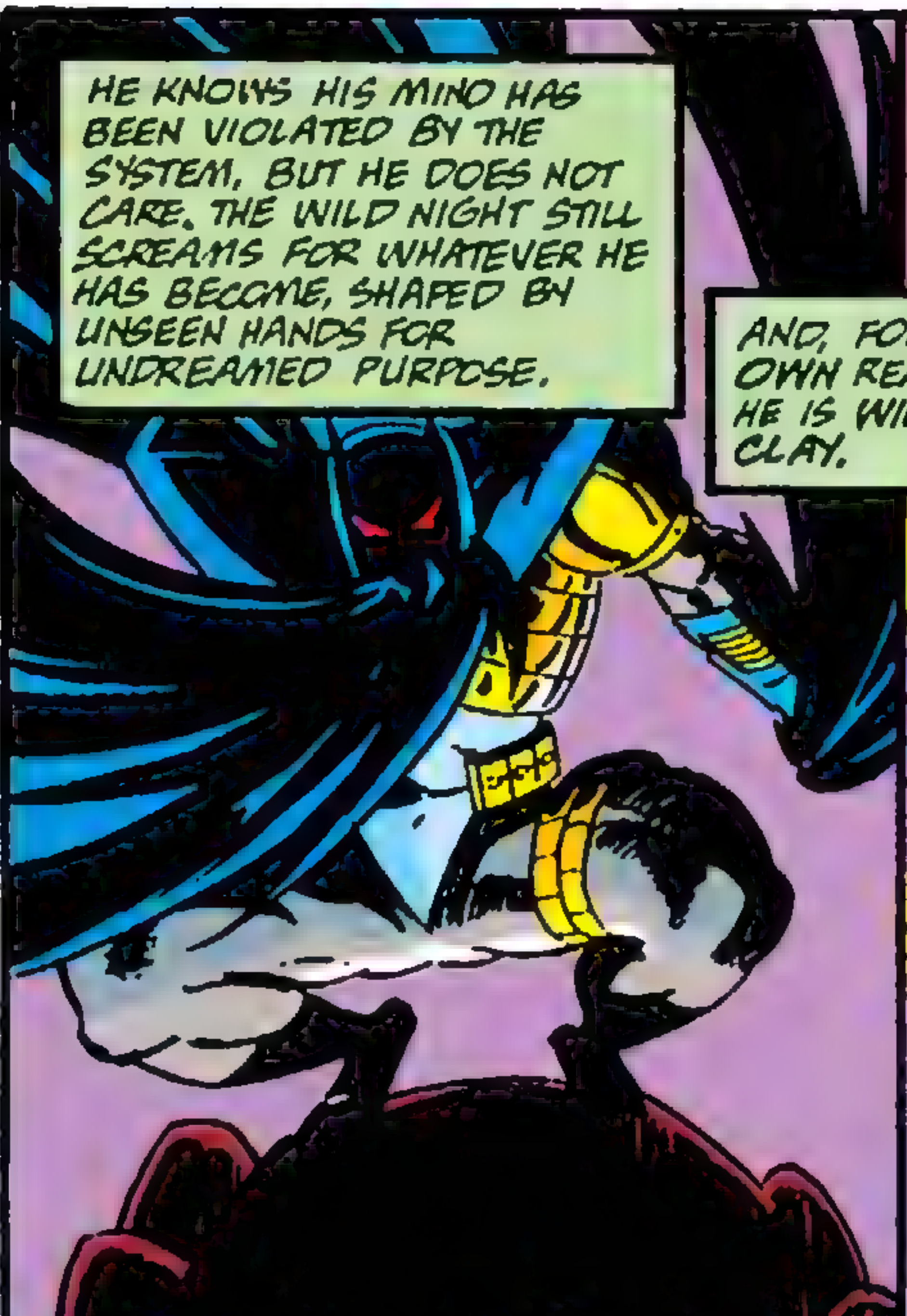
IT IS A THING BORN ONLY WHEN NOTHING ELSE MATTERS, FILLING HIM NOW, EVEN AS HE RIDES IT HARDER, A PERFECT CAST, FORGED IN A FIRE HE NEVER FELT.

HE ONLY FEELS LARGER, STRONGER.

HE TOUCHES ANOTHER CREATION, ONE WHICH HAS NOT FELT A HAND IN A HUNDRED YEARS.

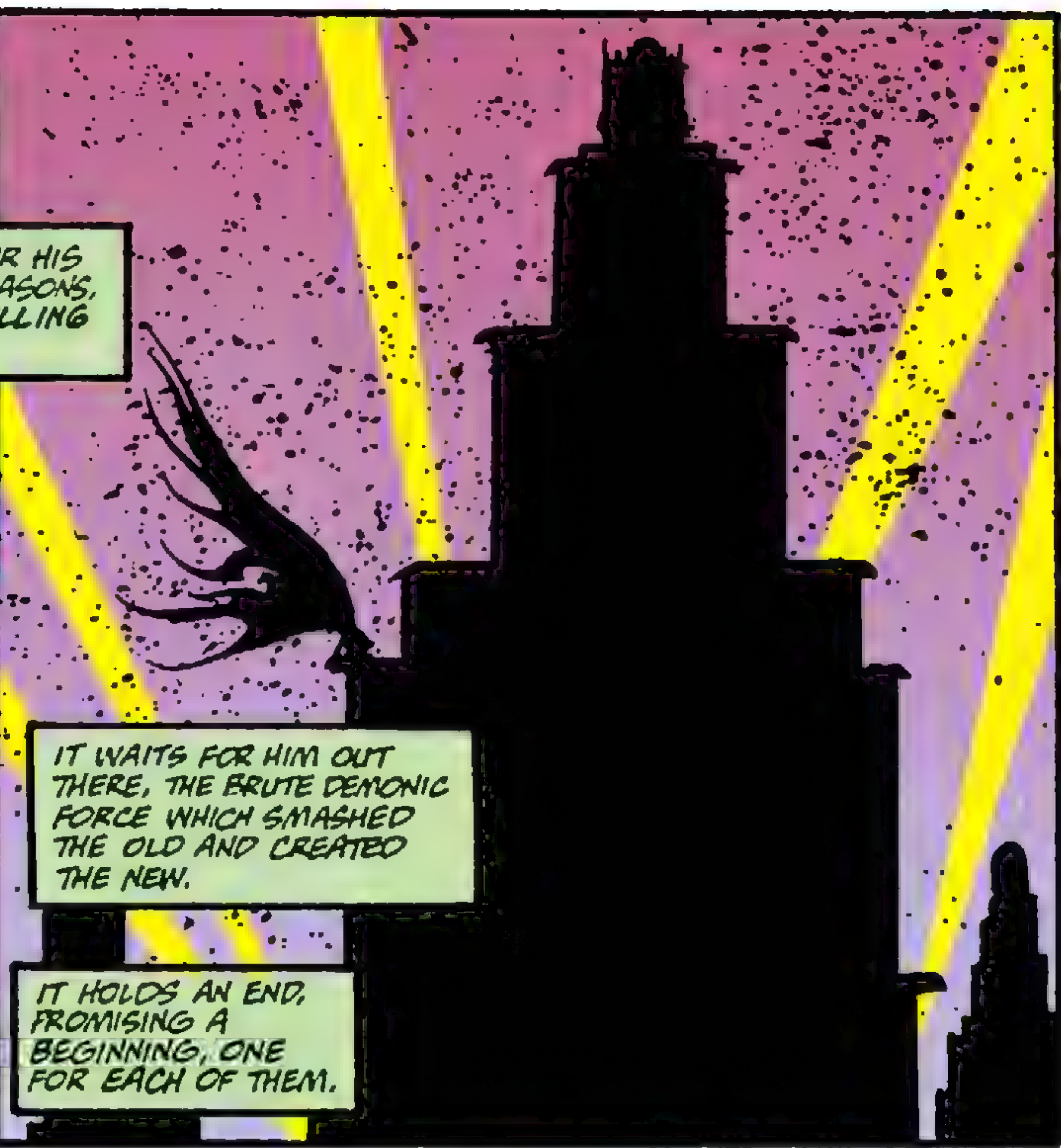
FEELING LIKE A BLACK COMET SLASHING THE SKY, SCATTERING STARS IN HIS WAKE.

HE WISHES IT WOULD TAKE FLIGHT, FOR THE SHEER THRILL OF CHASING IT.




HE KNOWS HIS MIND HAS BEEN VIOLATED BY THE SYSTEM, BUT HE DOES NOT CARE. THE WILD NIGHT STILL SCREAMS FOR WHATEVER HE HAS BECOME, SHAPED BY UNSEEN HANDS FOR UNDREAMED PURPOSE.

AND, FOR HIS OWN REASONS, HE IS WILLING CLAY.



IT WAITS FOR HIM OUT THERE, THE BRUTE DEMONIC FORCE WHICH SMASHED THE OLD AND CREATED THE NEW.

IT HOLDS AN END, PROMISING A BEGINNING, ONE FOR EACH OF THEM.



HE WONDERS WHERE, AND THE CITY BECOMES A PUZZLE, ONE PIECE THE KEY UNLOCKING THE COLLECTIVE PRIZE OF THE WHOLE.

AND EVEN THOUGH THAT PIECE IS BUT ONE OF MILLIONS. IT IS THE DARK HEART SHADING THE WHOLE.

WON'T AT TAB

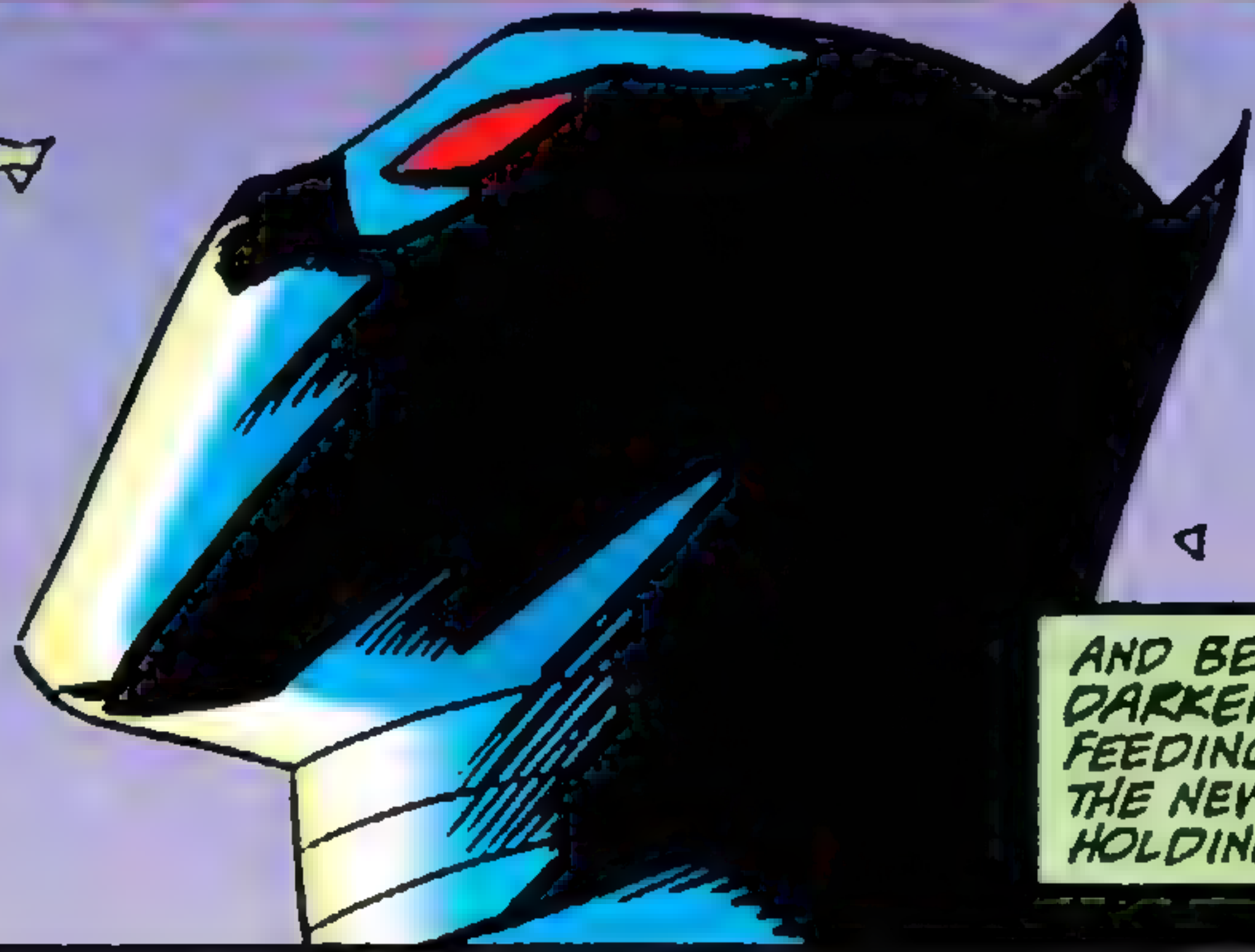
FIND THAT PIECE AND THE PUZZLE IS HIS, ITS MEANING REVEALED, THE PRIZE CLAIMED.

IT IS BANE. THE KEY IS BANE.

FIND HIM.

REMOVE HIM.

TAKE HIS PLACE.

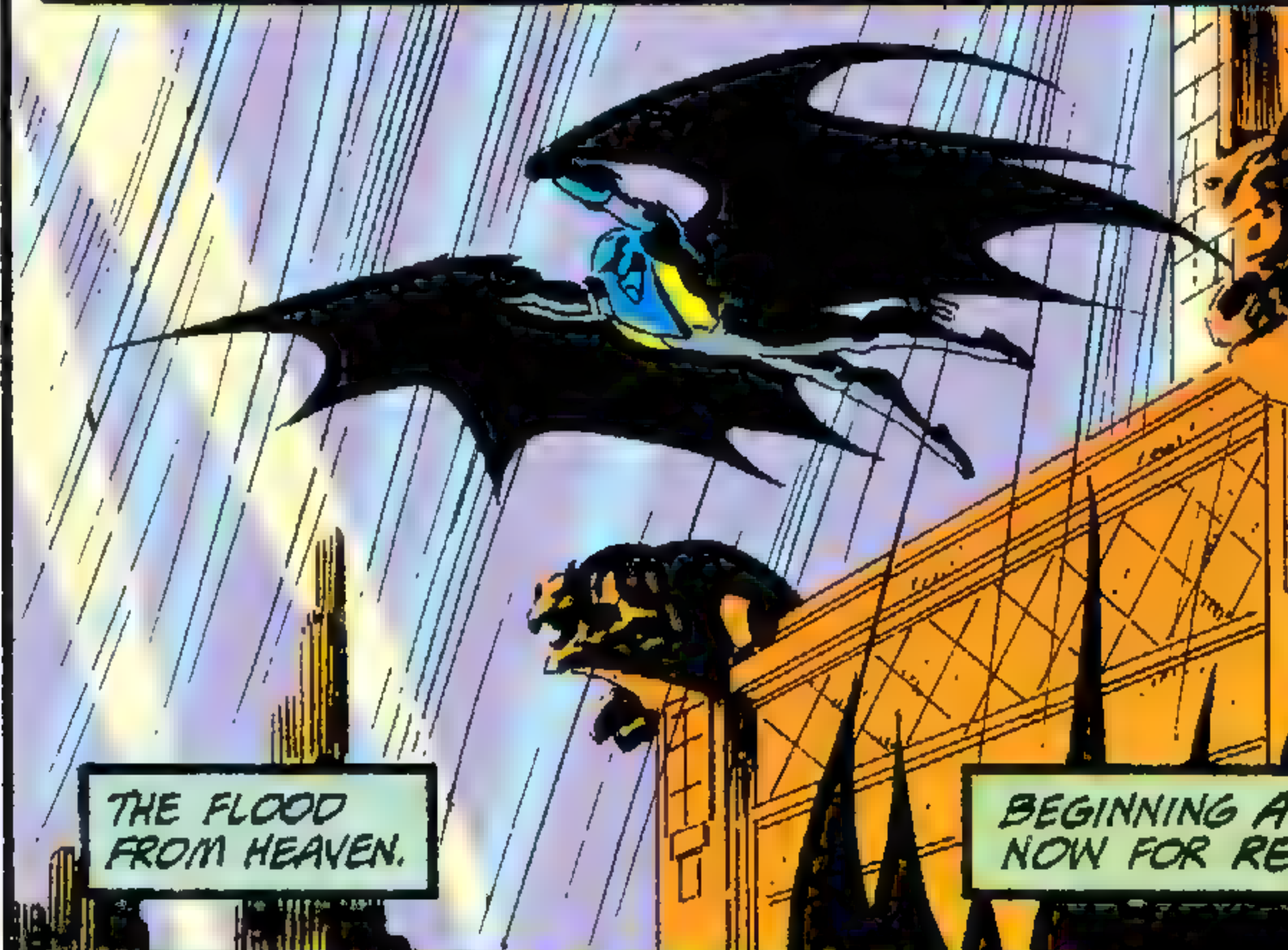
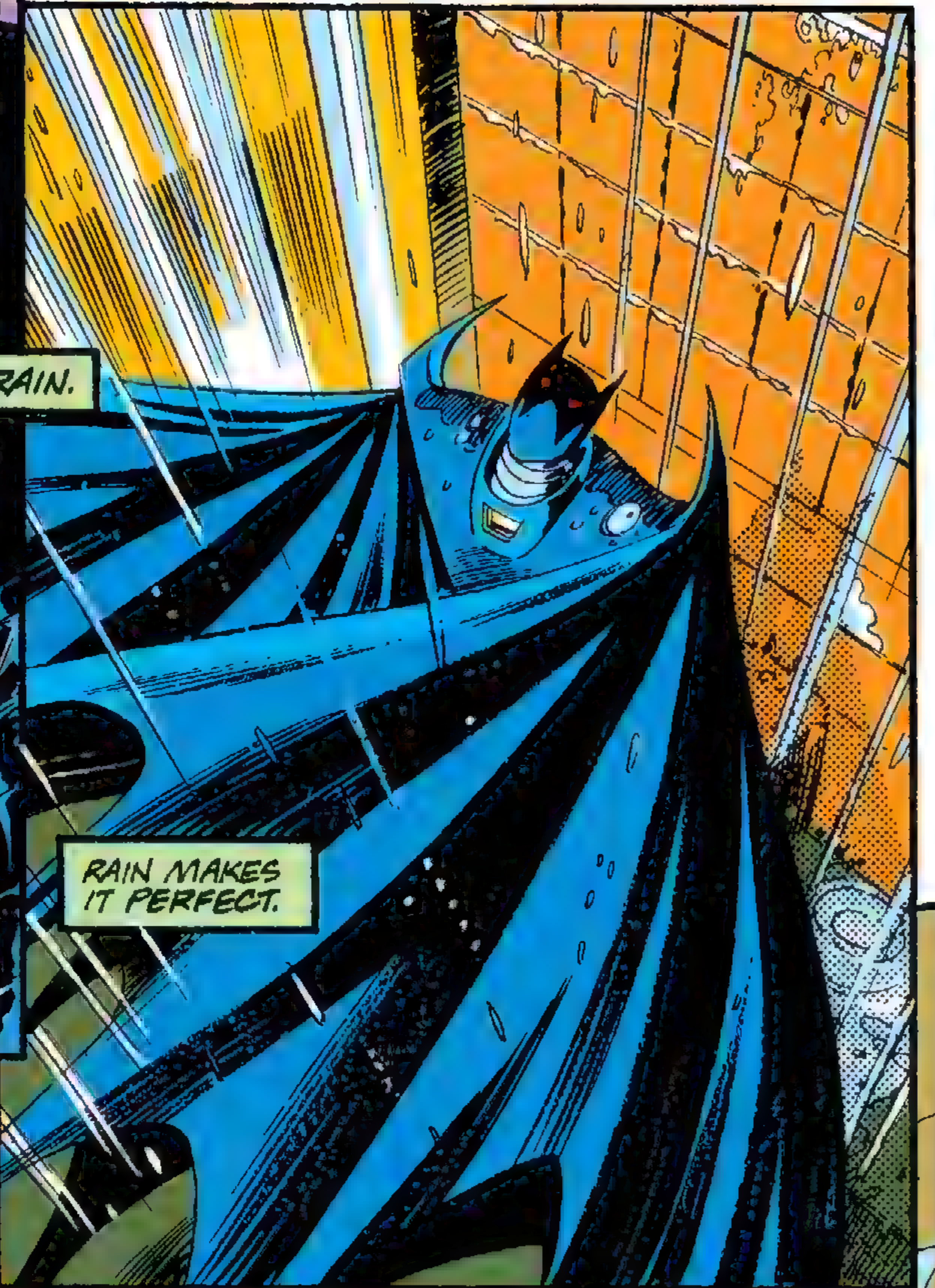


AND BECOME A DARKER HEART FEEDING THE REST, THE NEW CENTER HOLDING IT ALL.



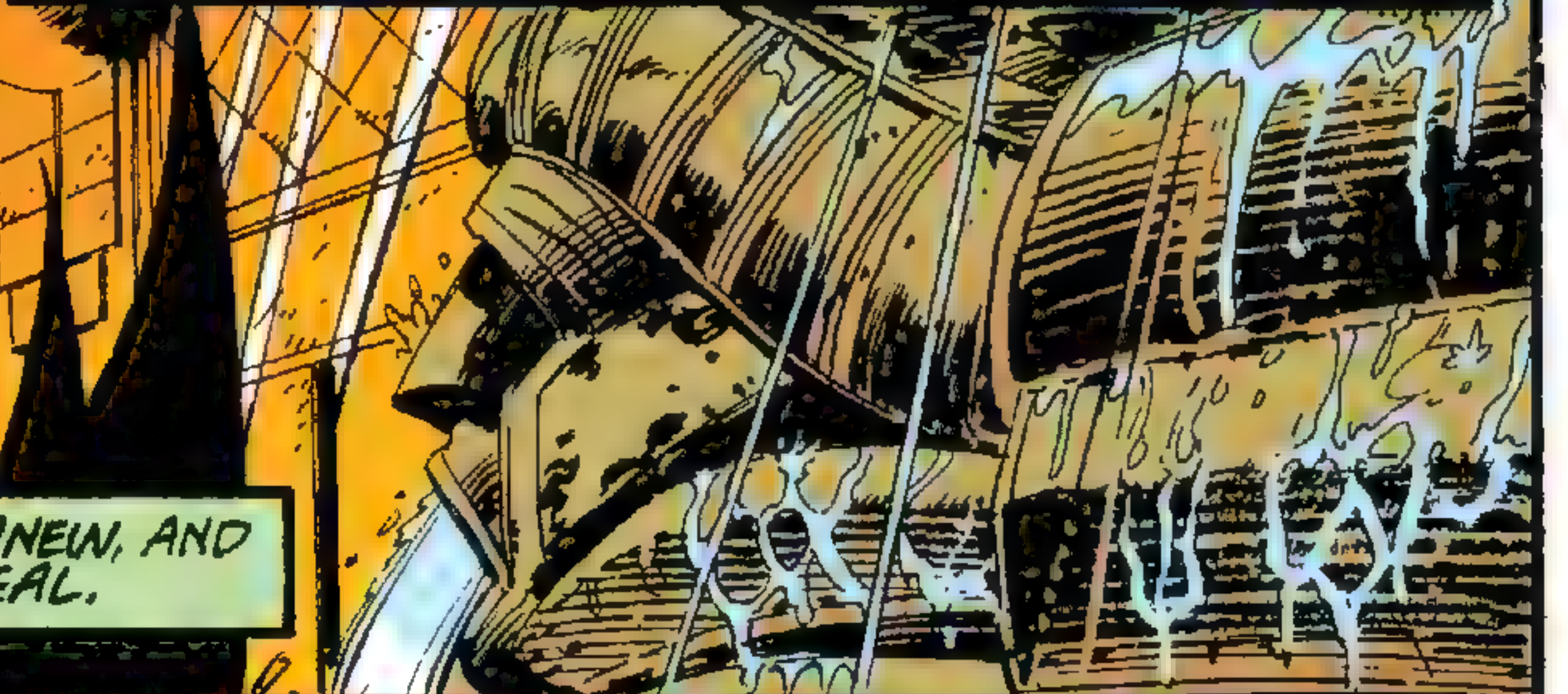
RAIN.

RAIN MAKES
IT PERFECT.



THE FLOOD
FROM HEAVEN.

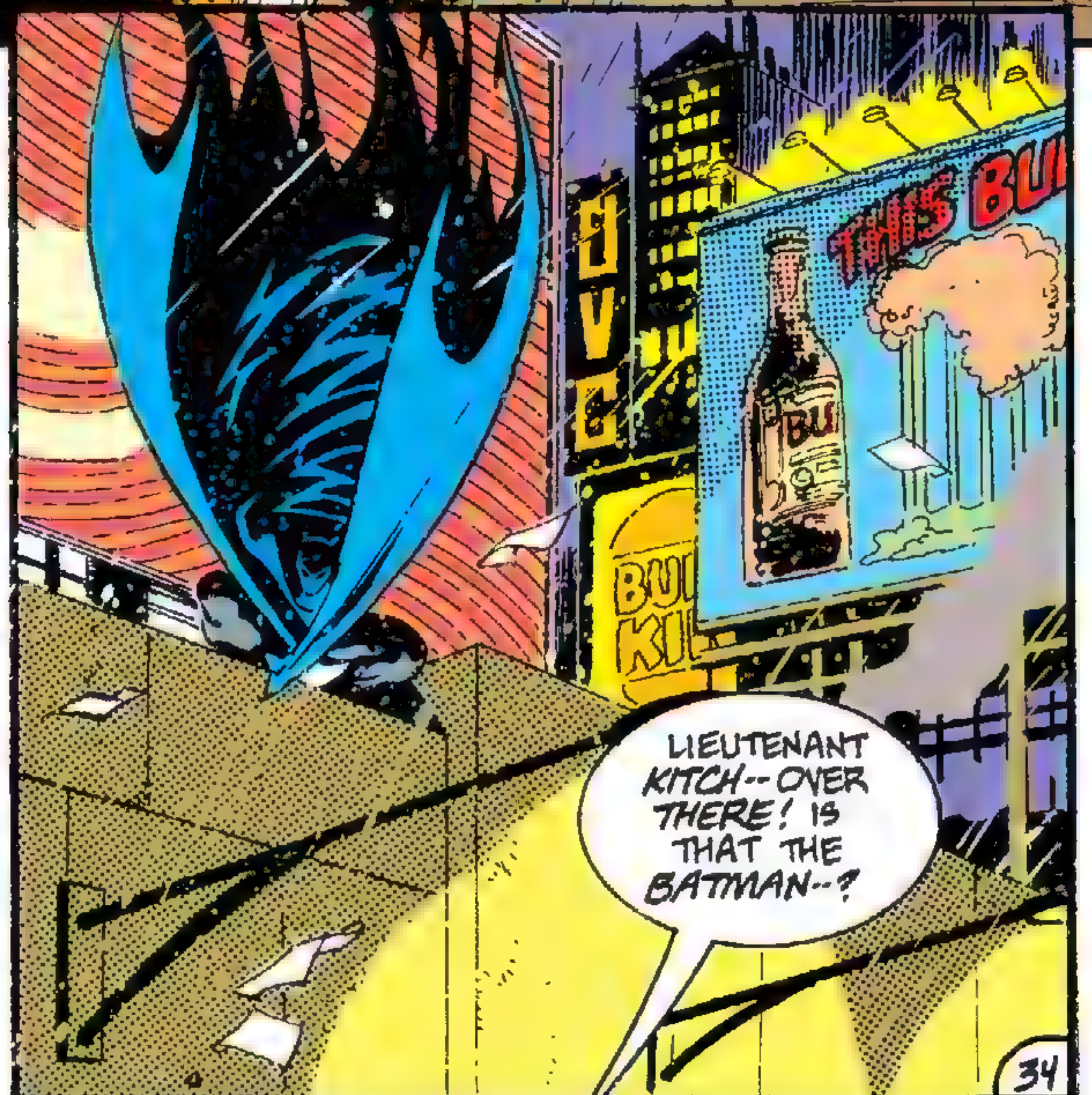
BEGINNING AGAIN, AND
NOW FOR REAL.



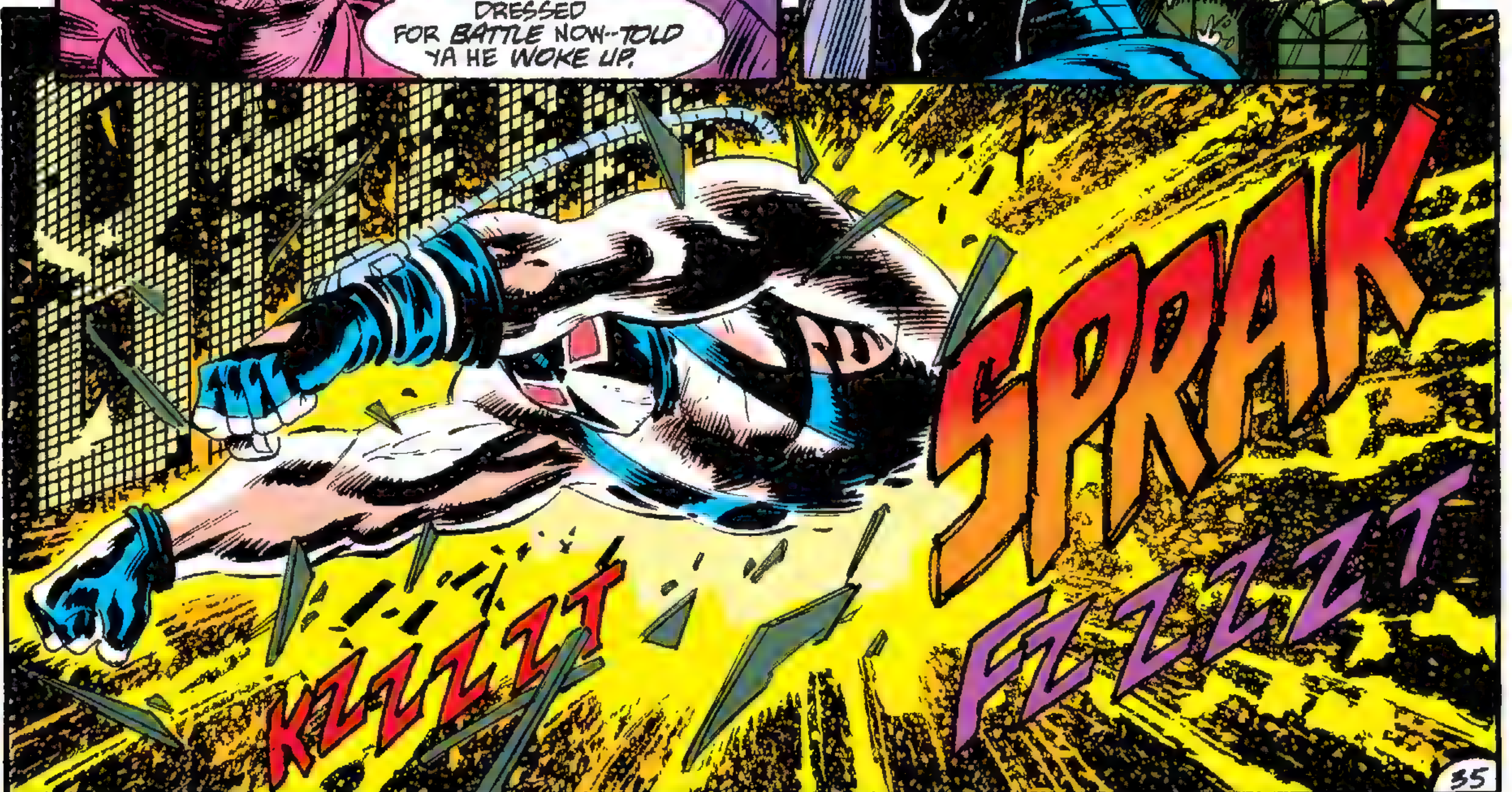
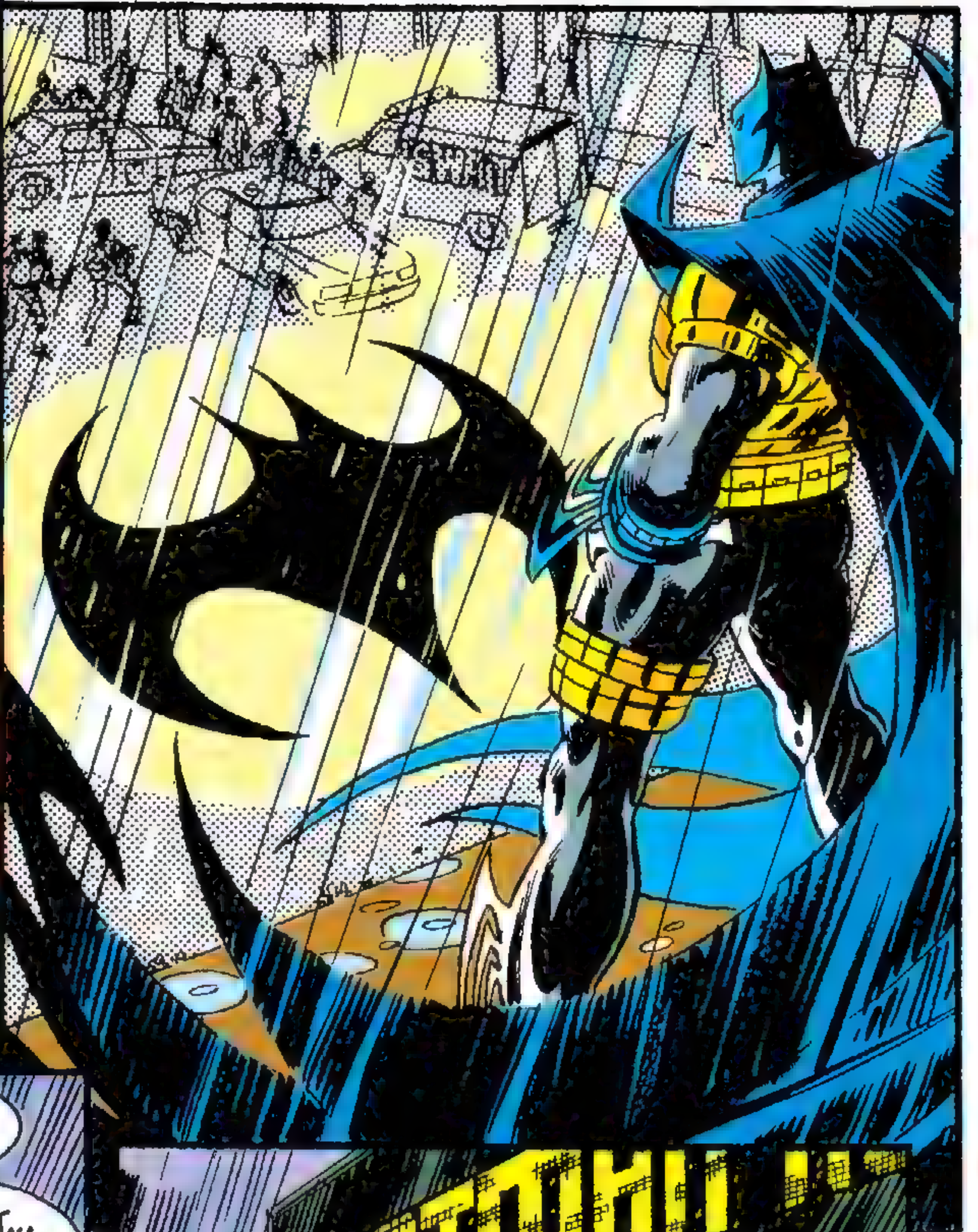
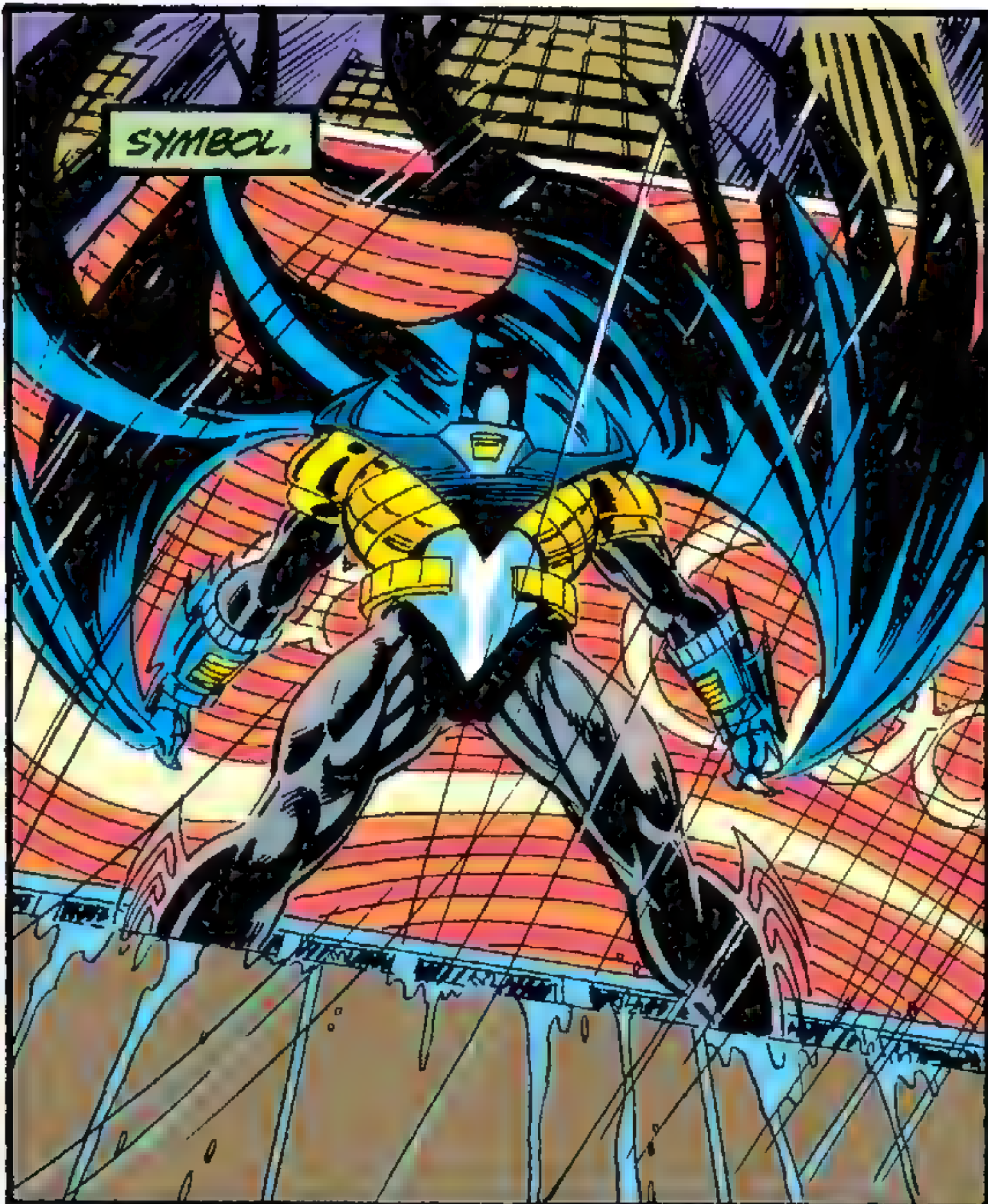
HE'S
UP THERE
SOMEWHERE!

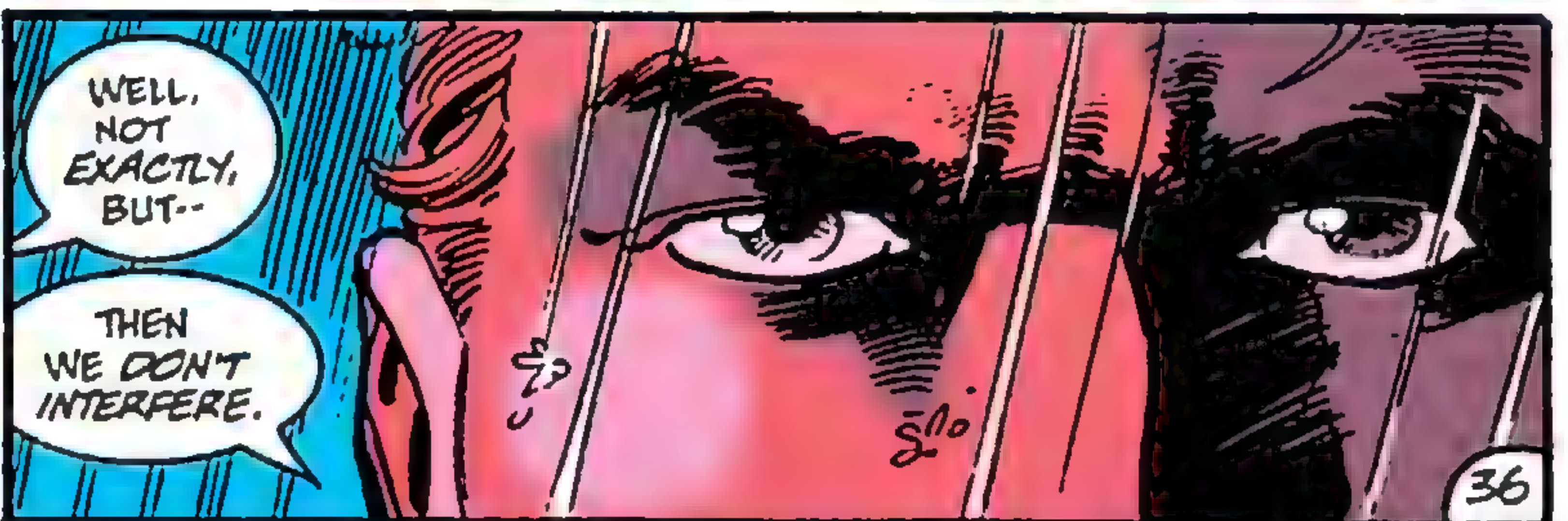
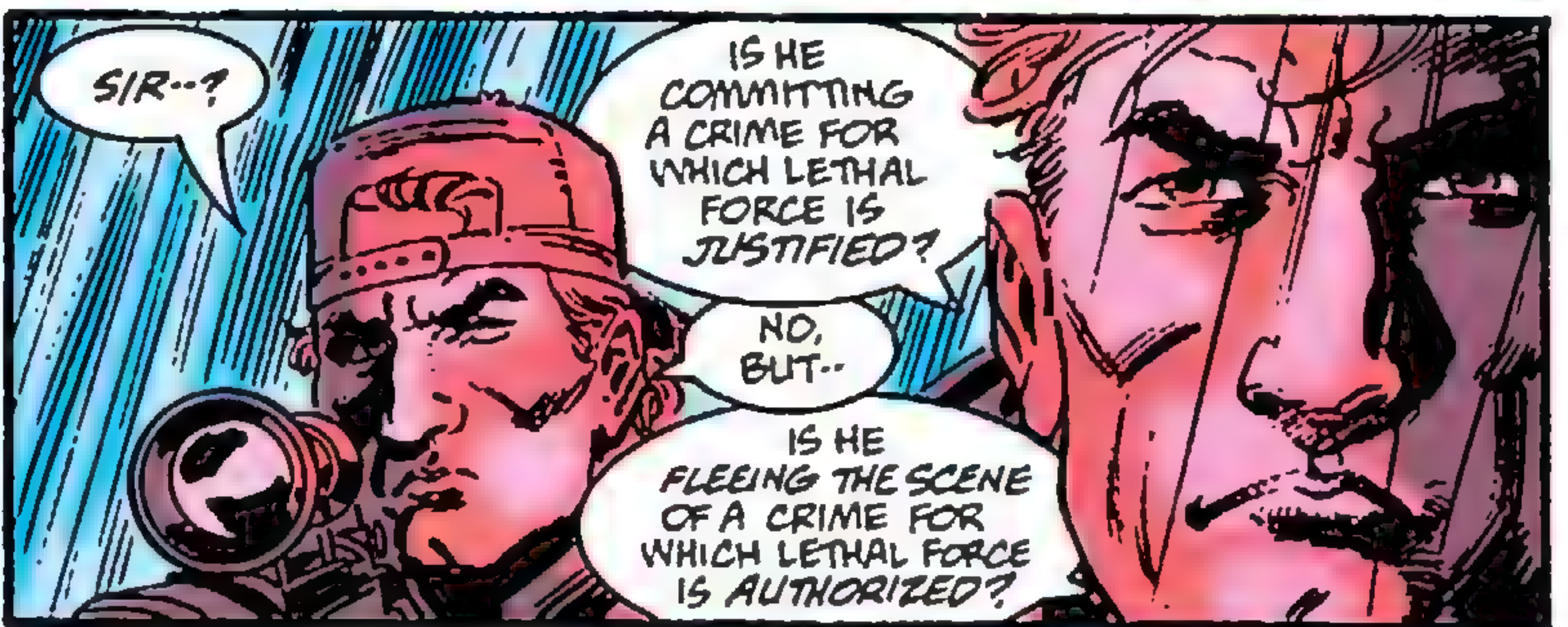
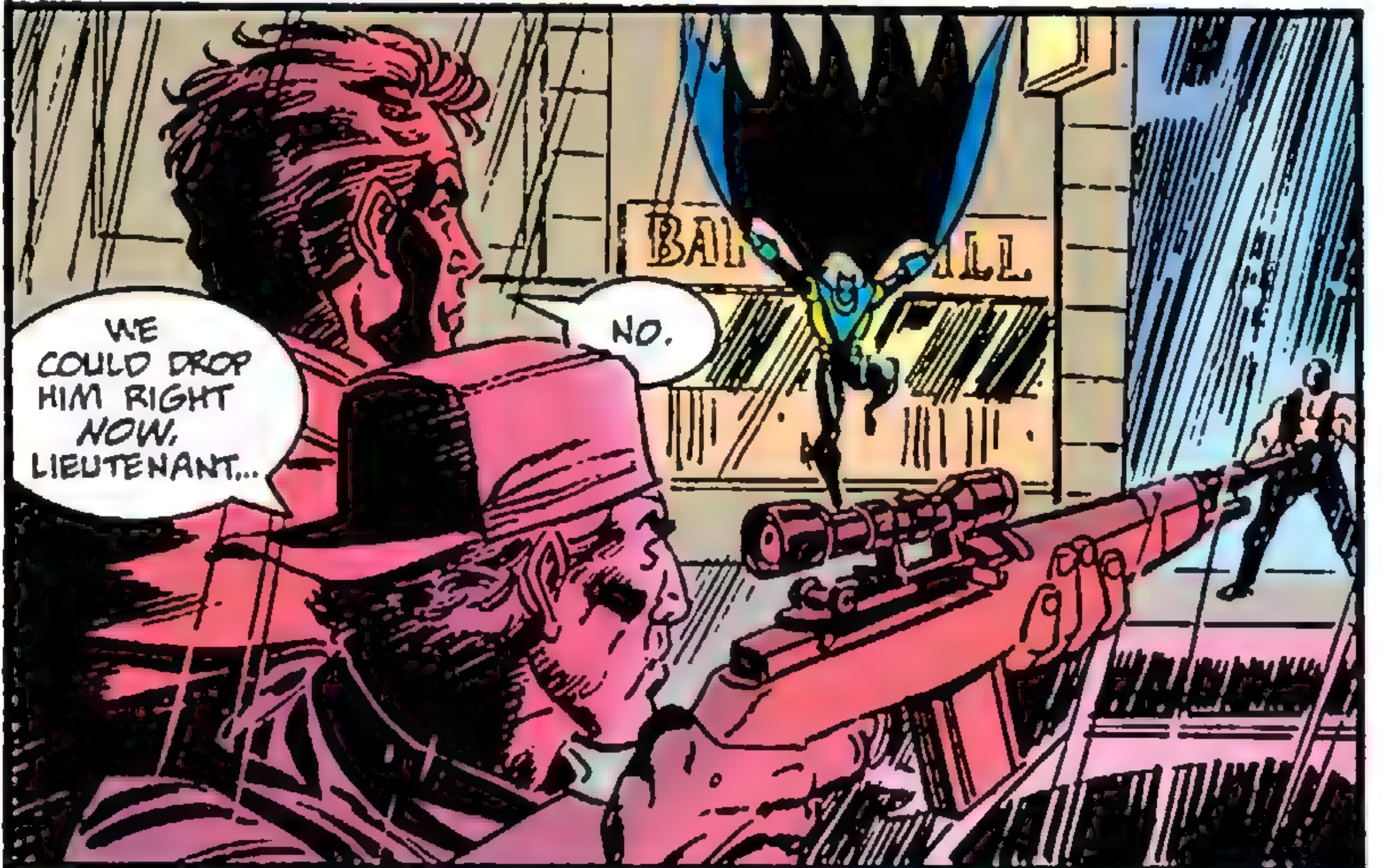
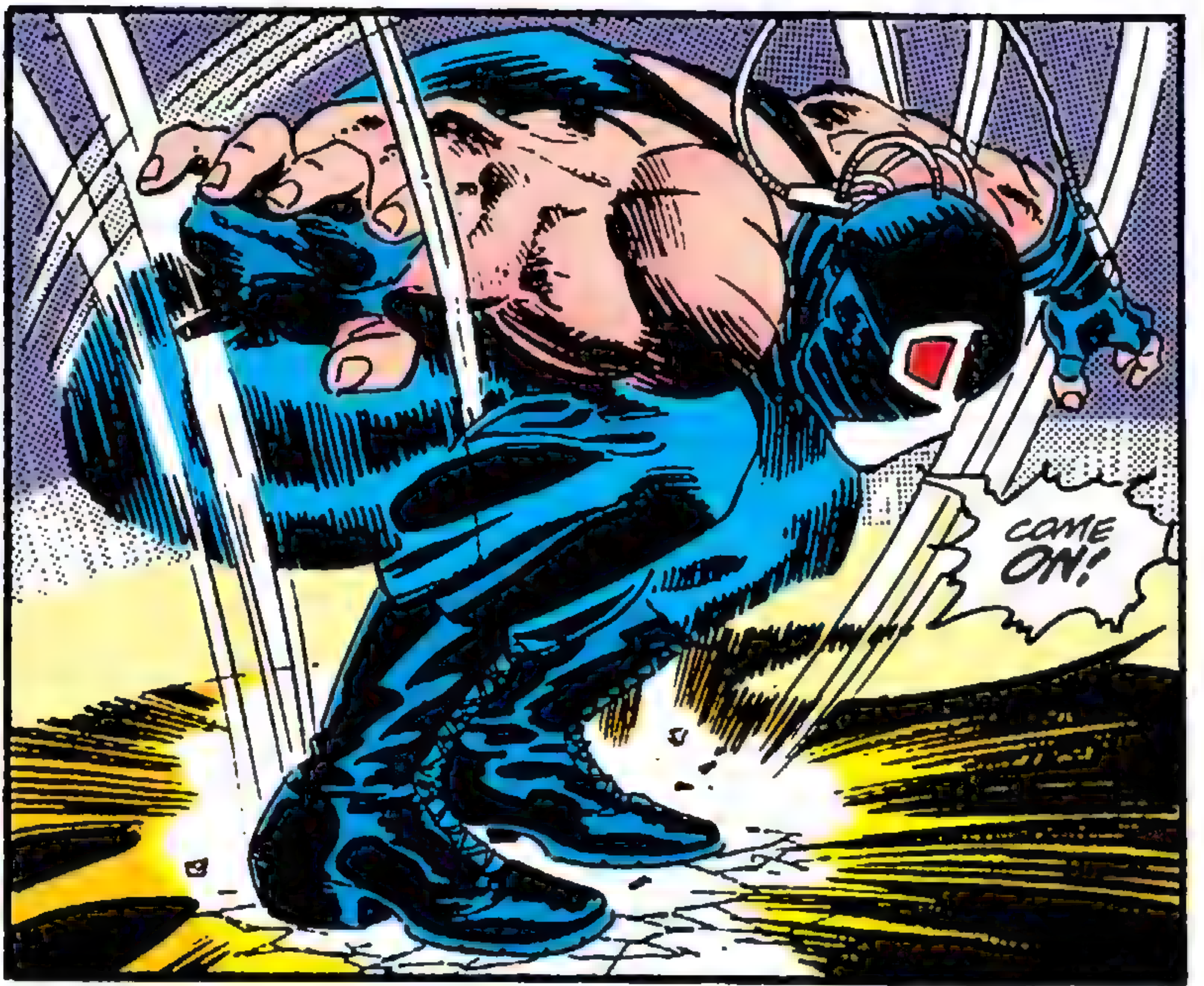
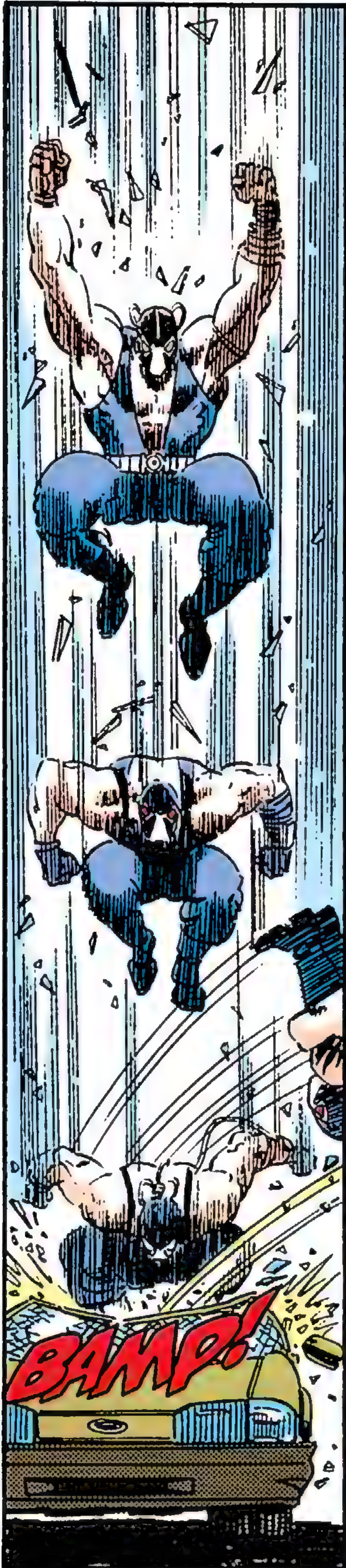
CLEAR
THE
AREA!

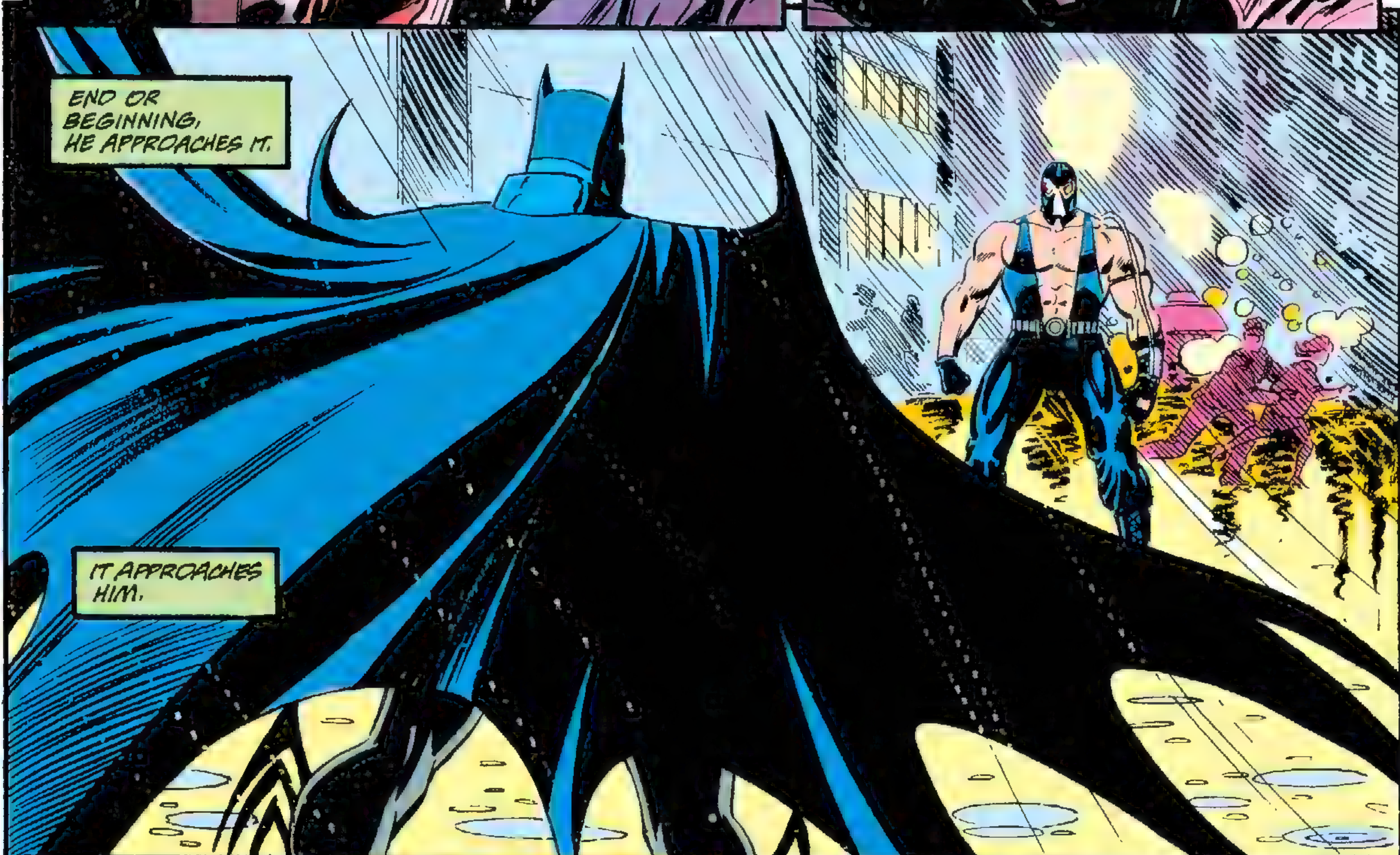
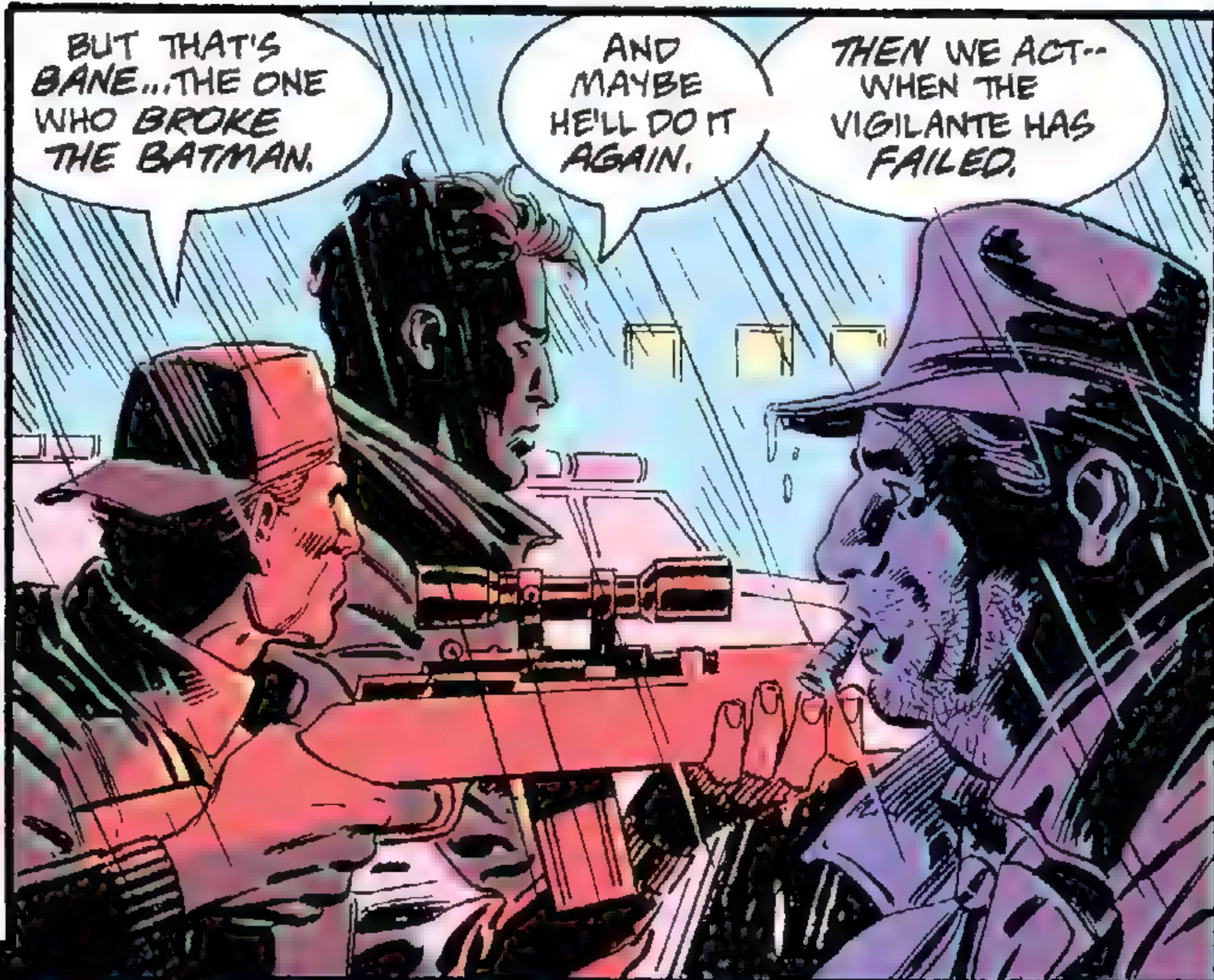
CORDON
OFF THE
ENTIRE
SQUARE!

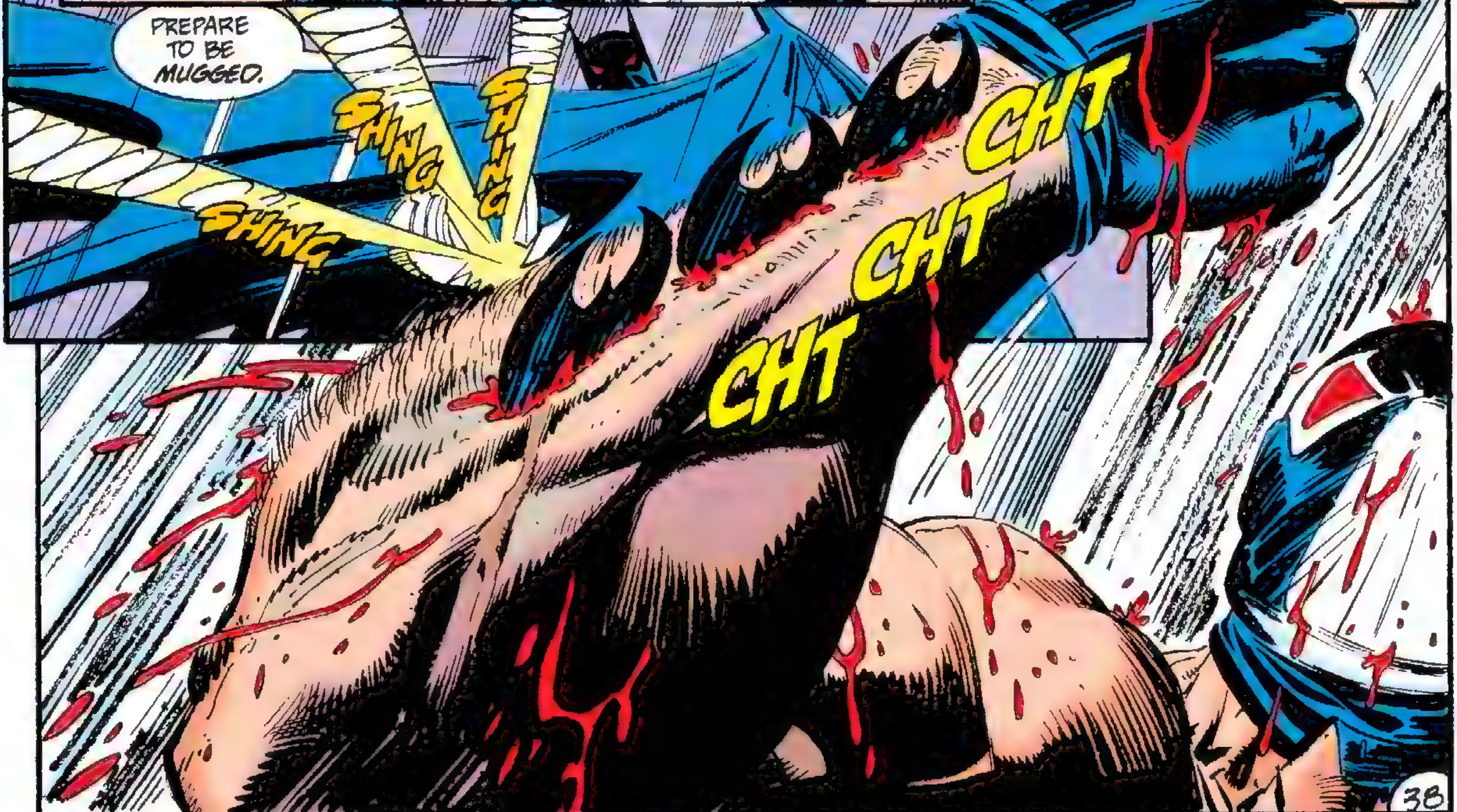
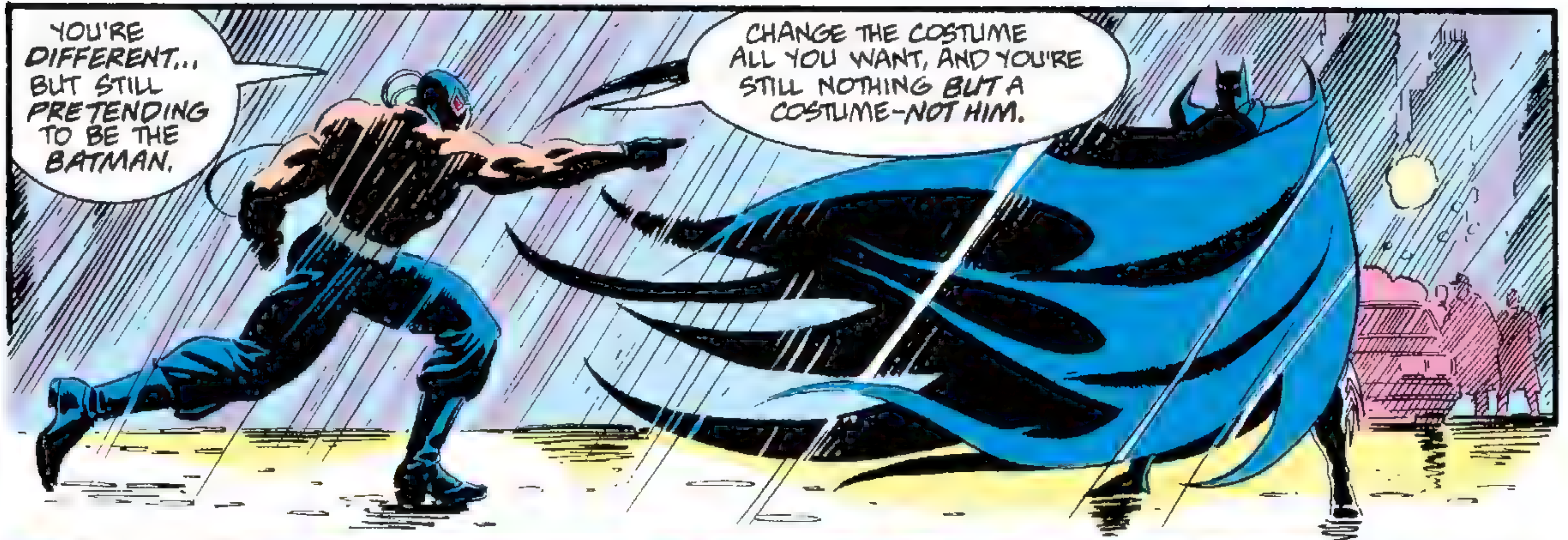


LIEUTENANT
KITCH--OVER
THERE! IS
THAT THE
BATMAN--?











HE HAS MISSED ANOTHER CHANCE, BANE WAS ALMOST FINISHED.

KILL THE PAIN...

NOW HE IS OUT OF REACH.

TEK

FWNCH

FEEDING HIMSELF.

UHRRR...

A DEMON RIDING THE CREST OF HELL..

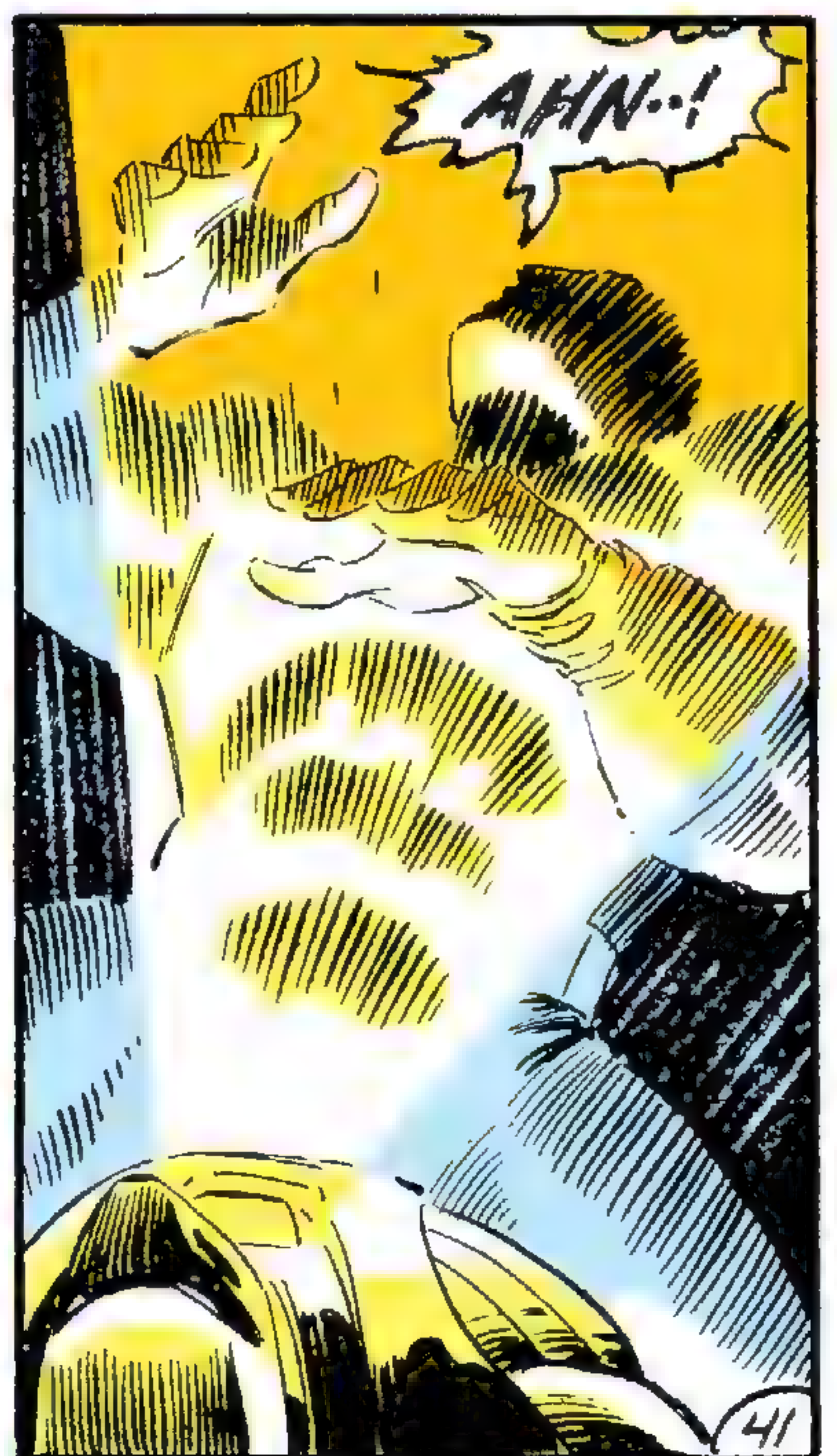
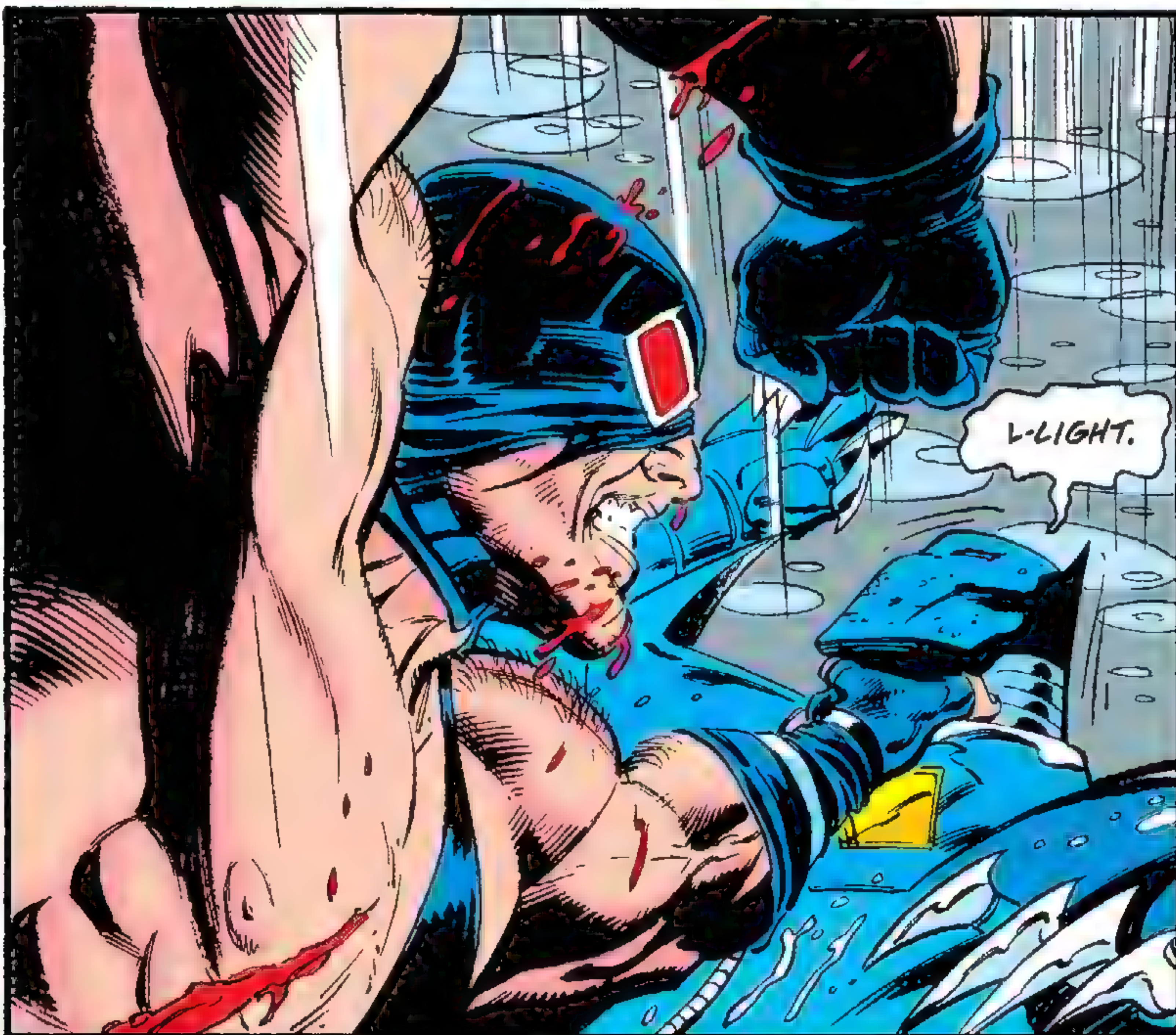
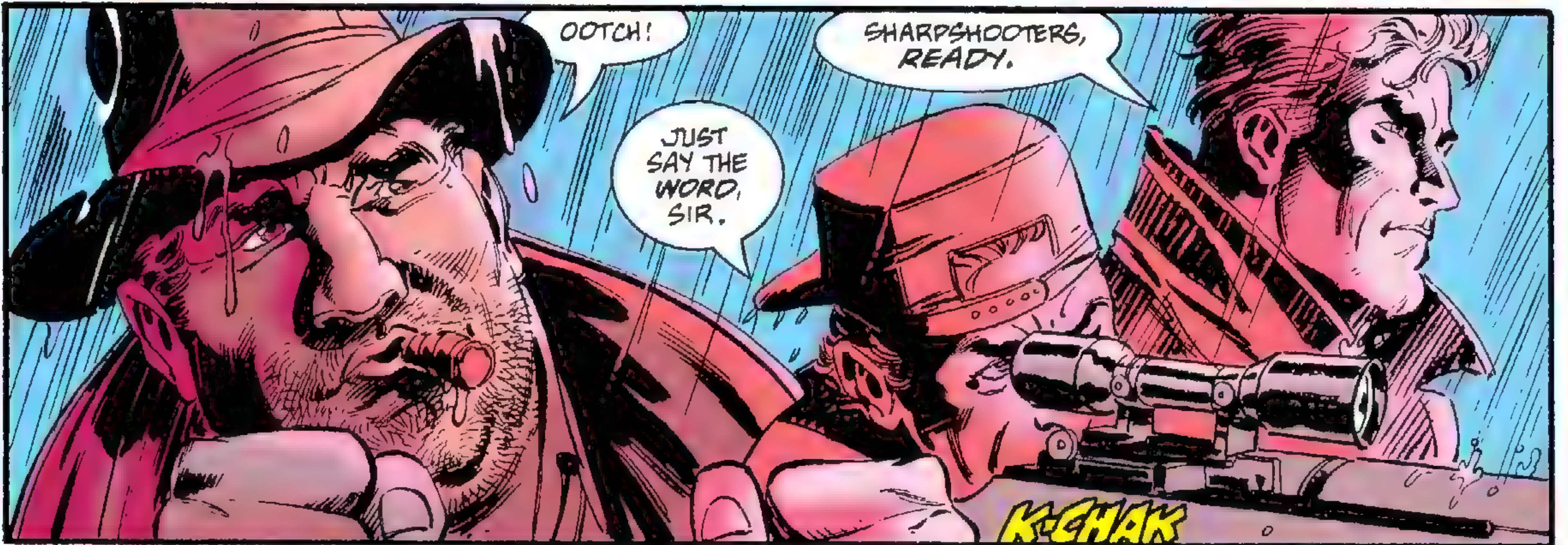
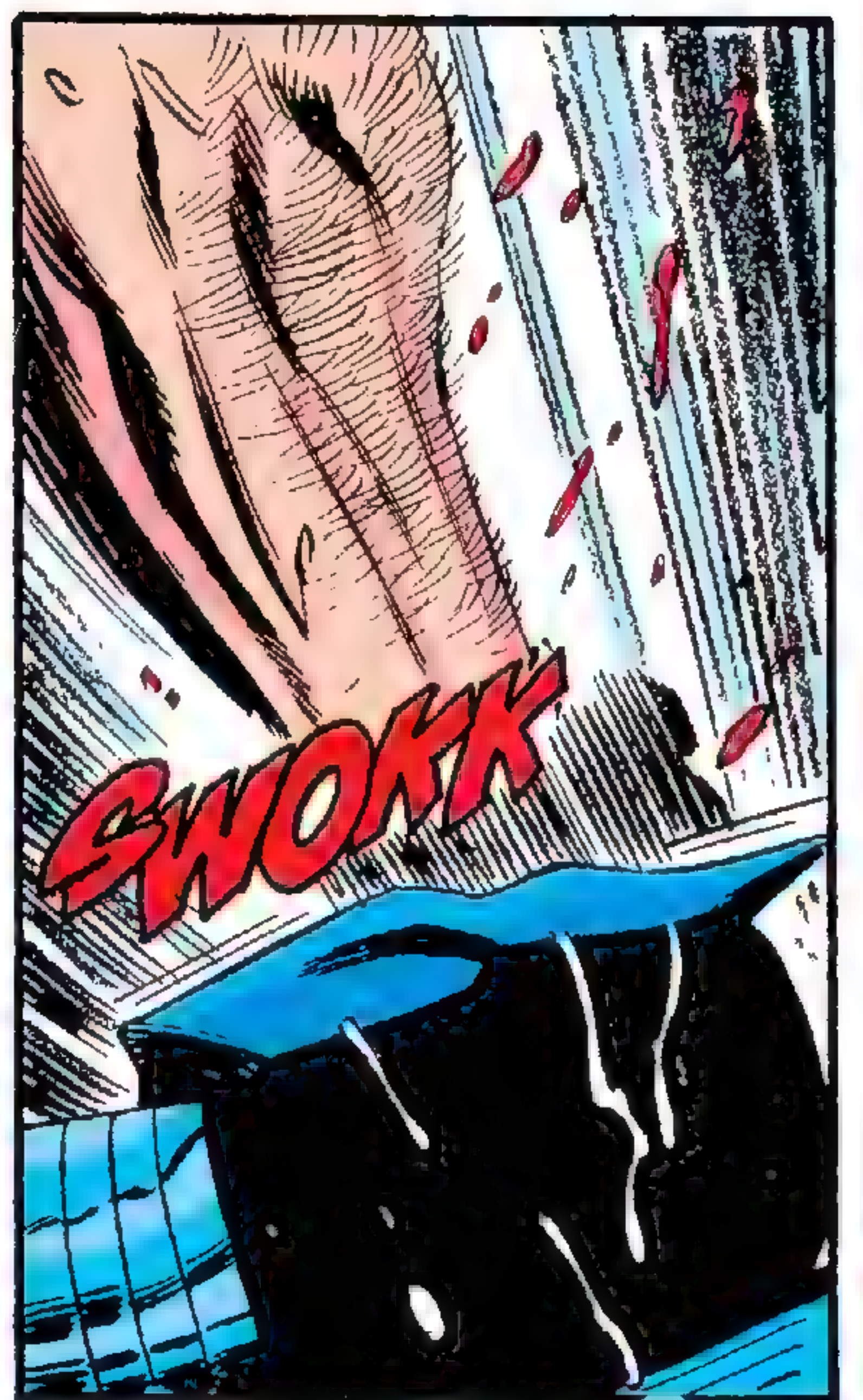
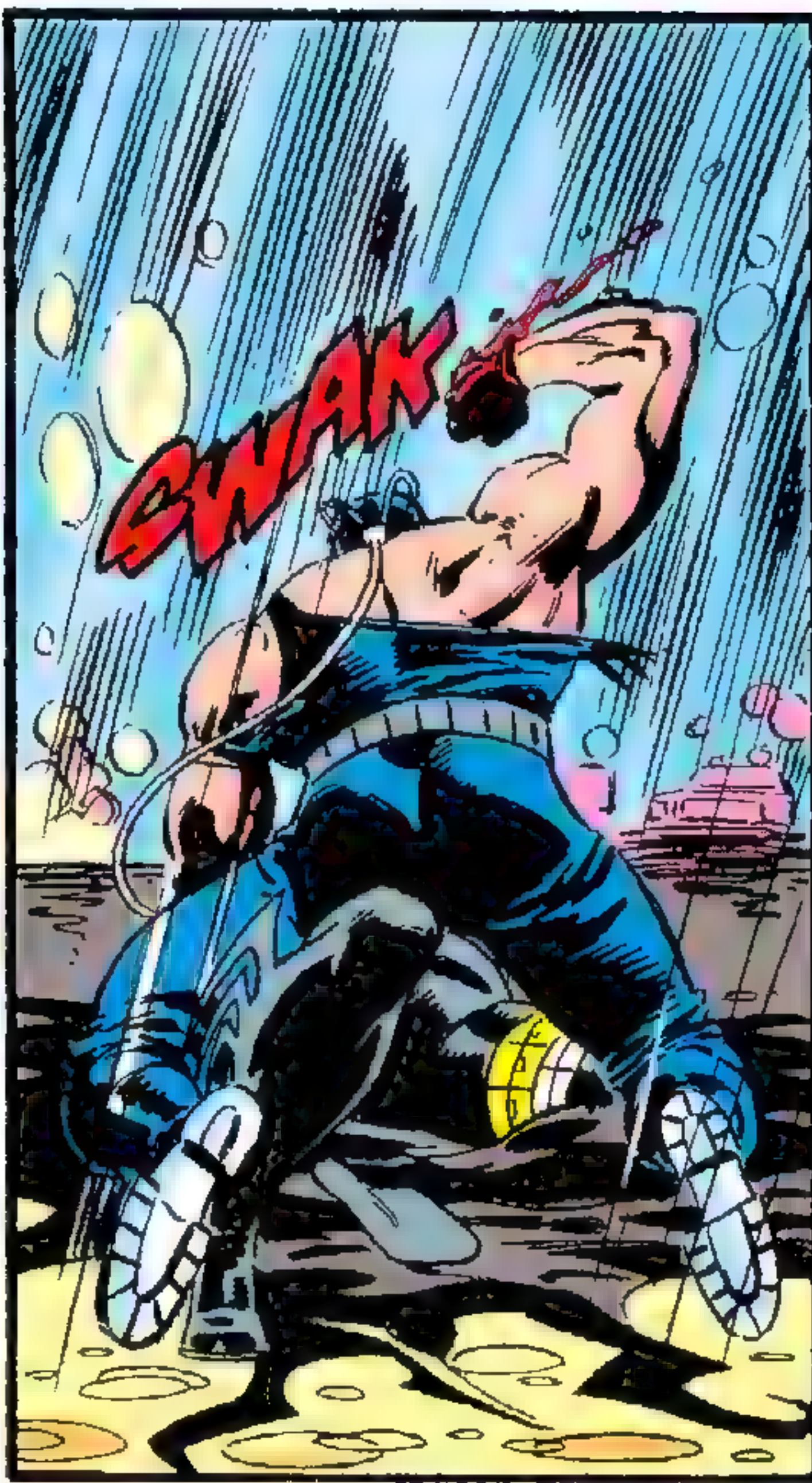
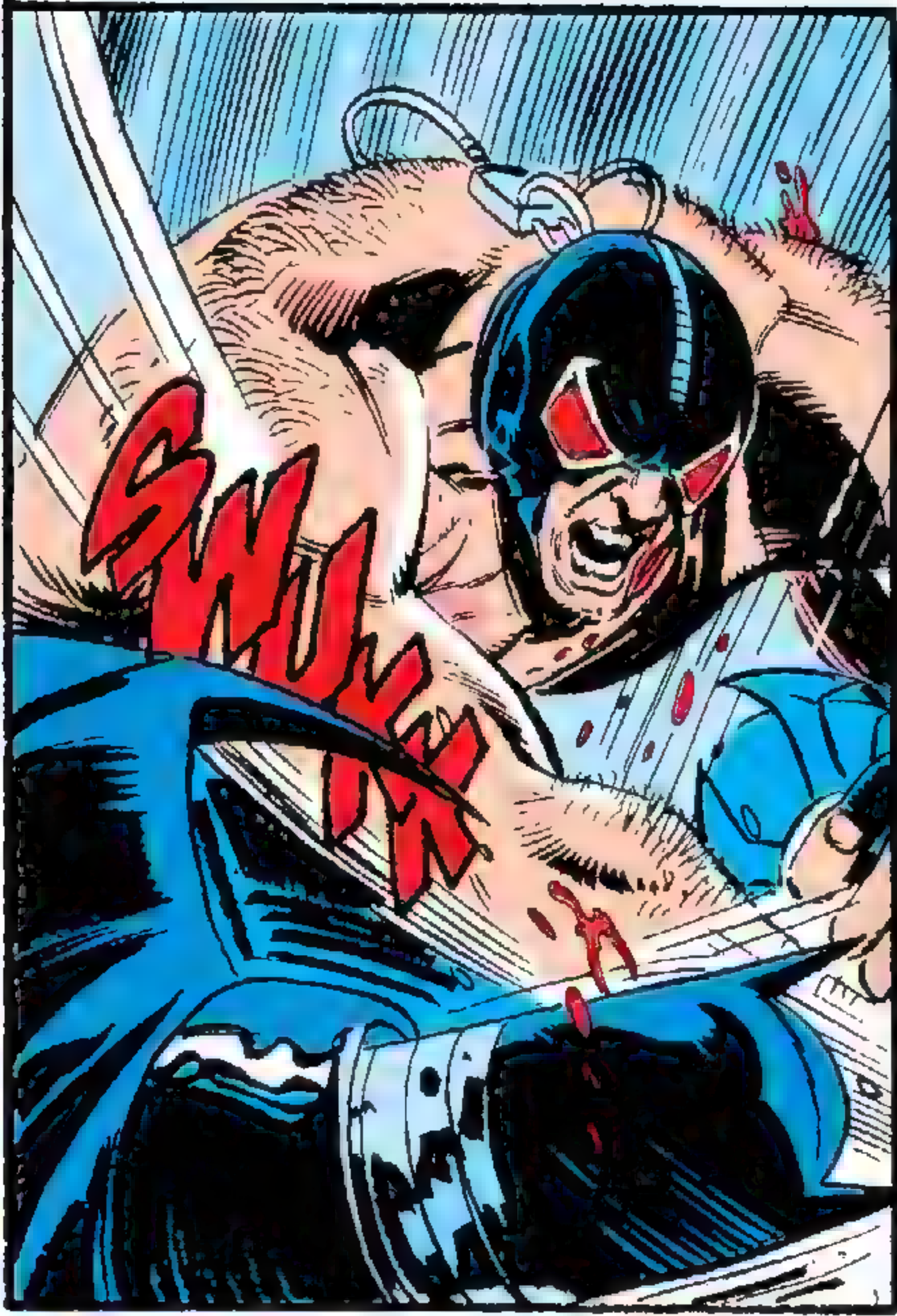
TOO FAST TO EVADE.

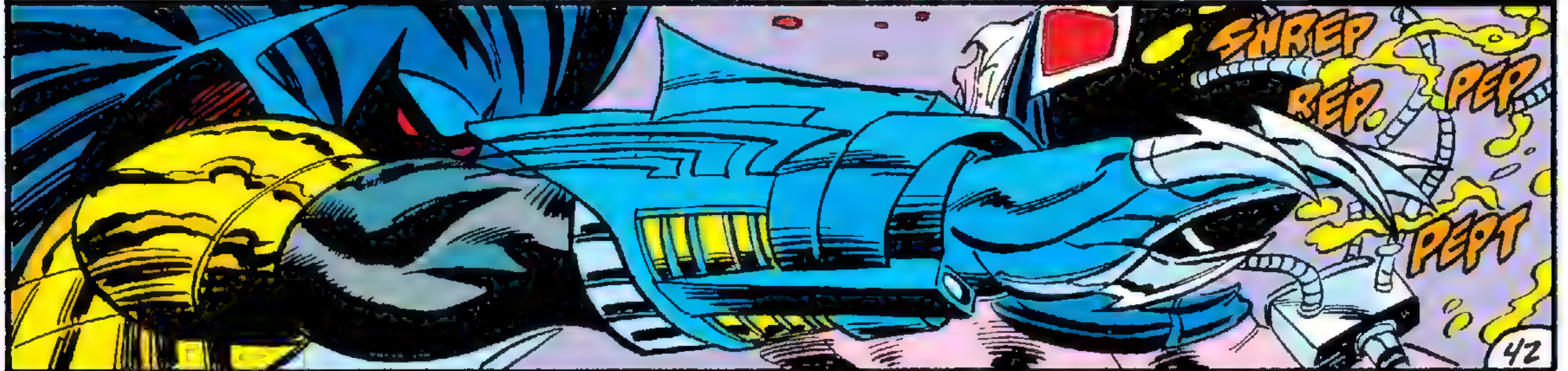
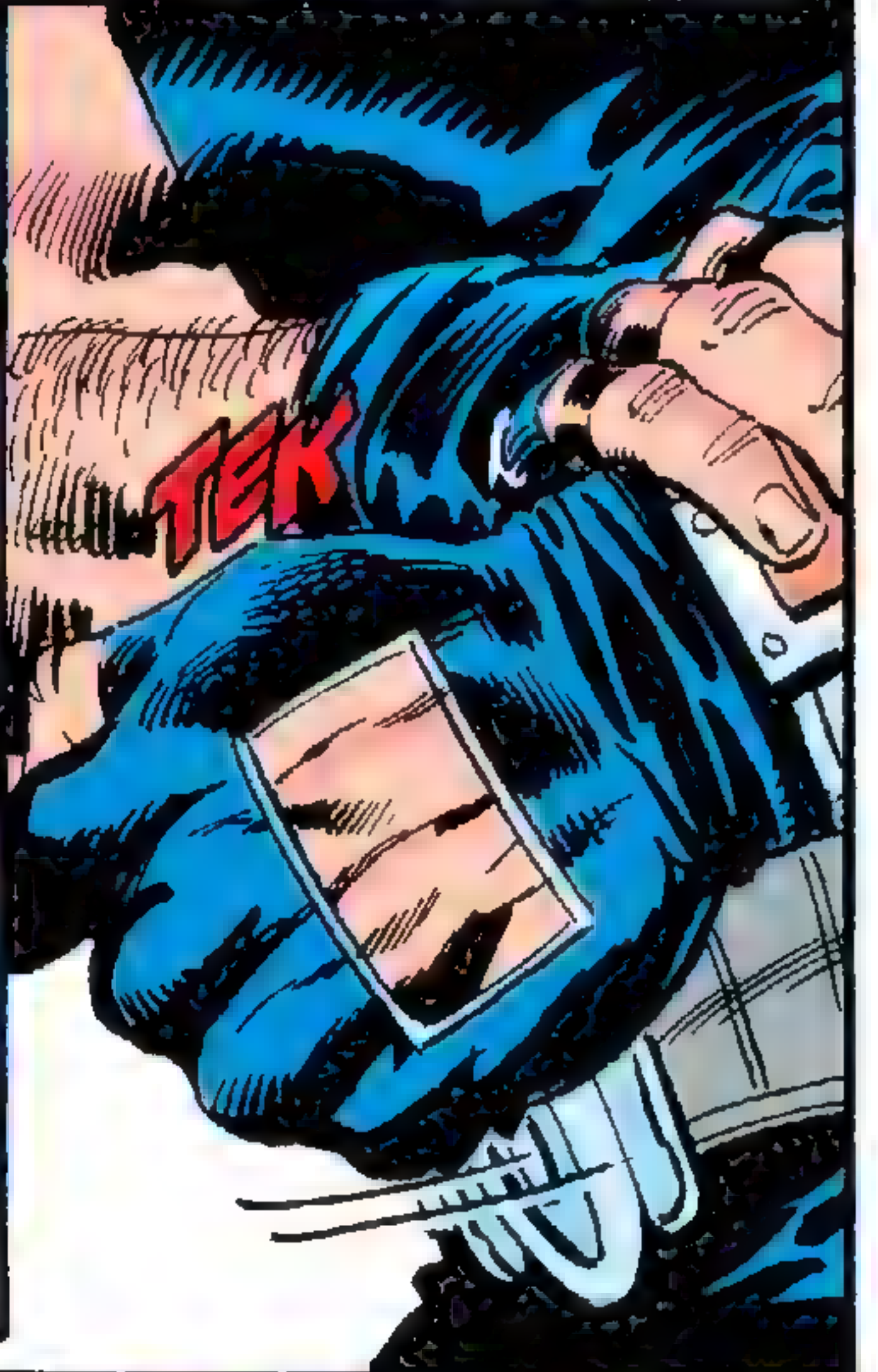
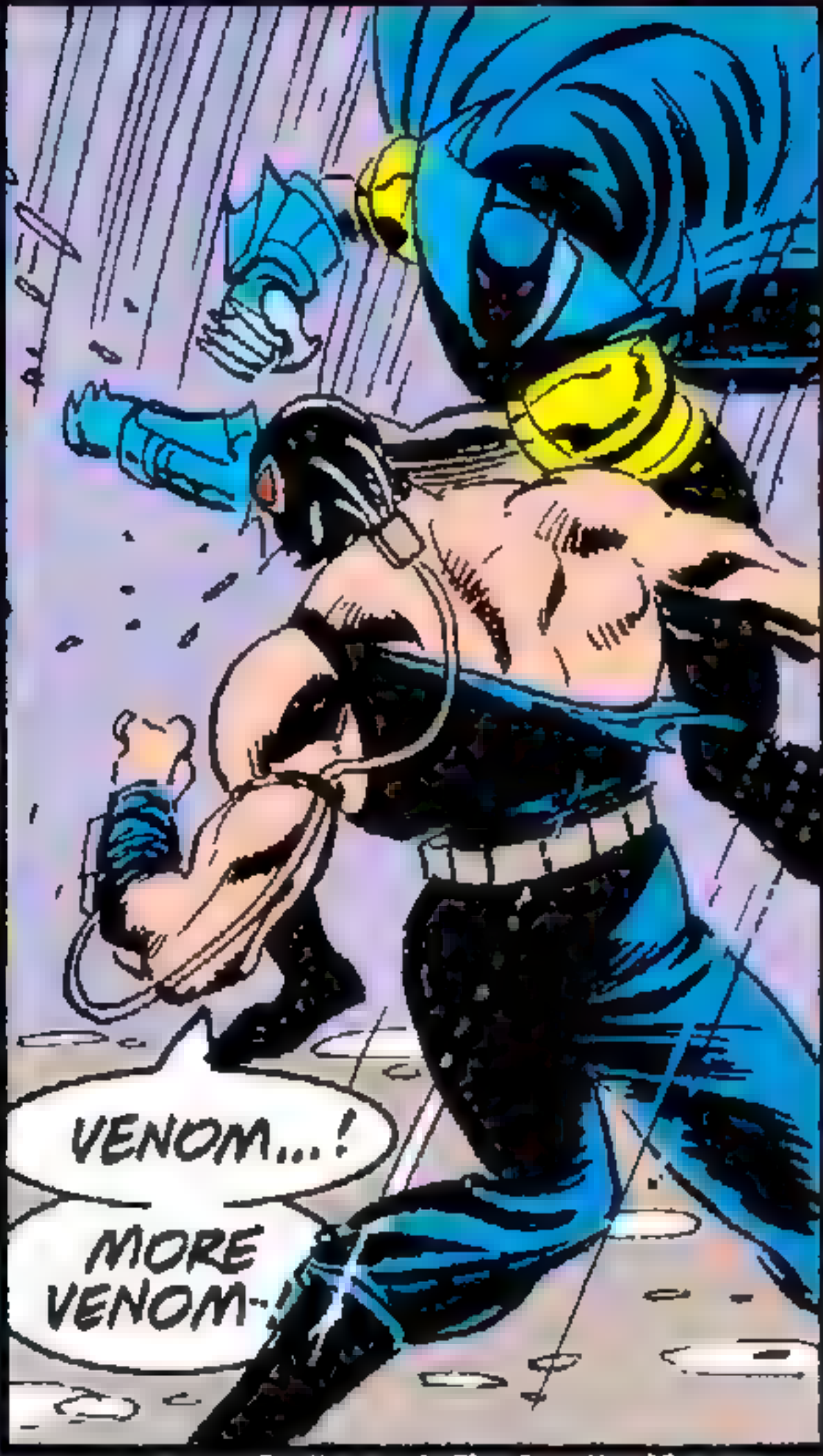
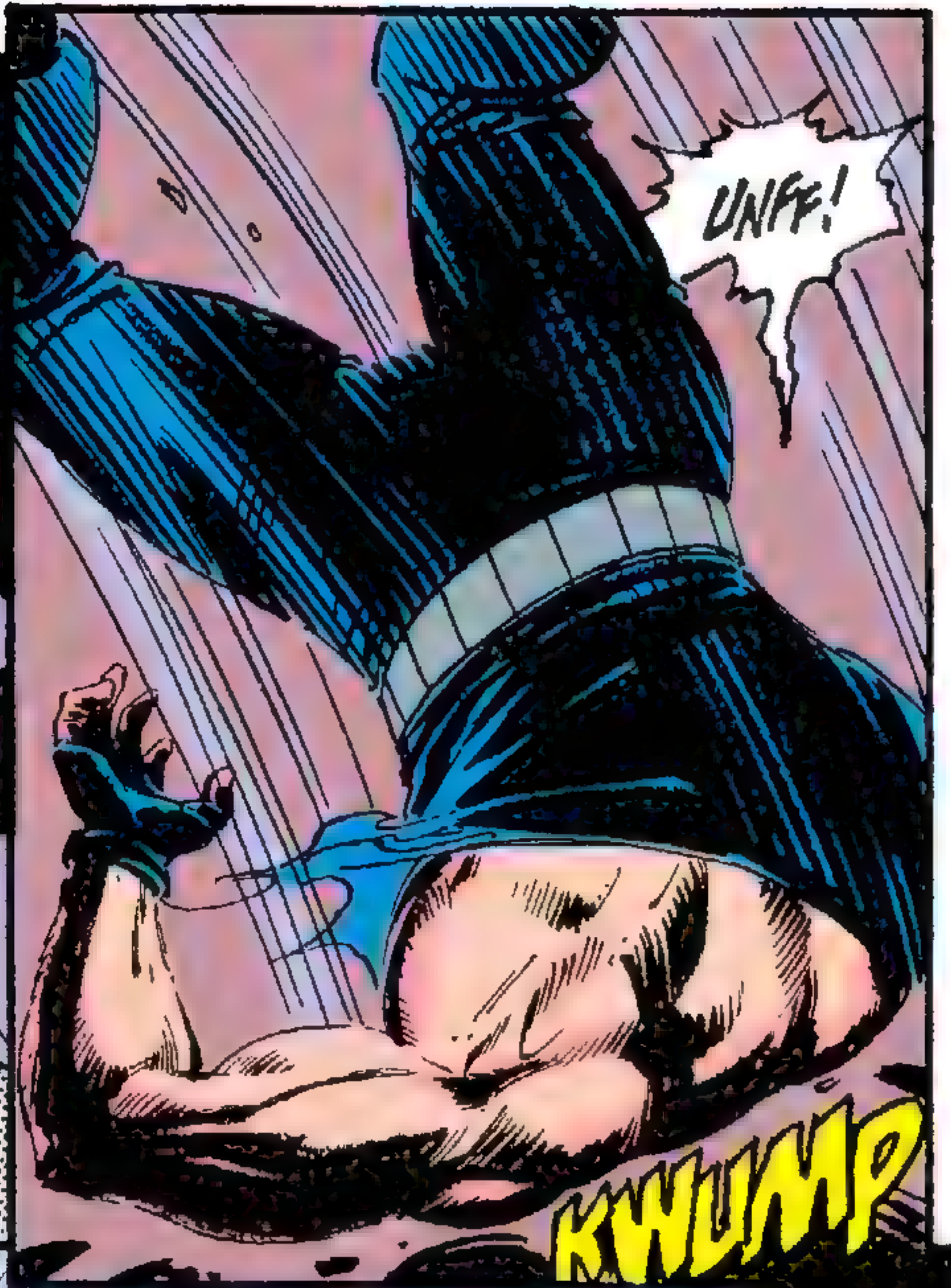
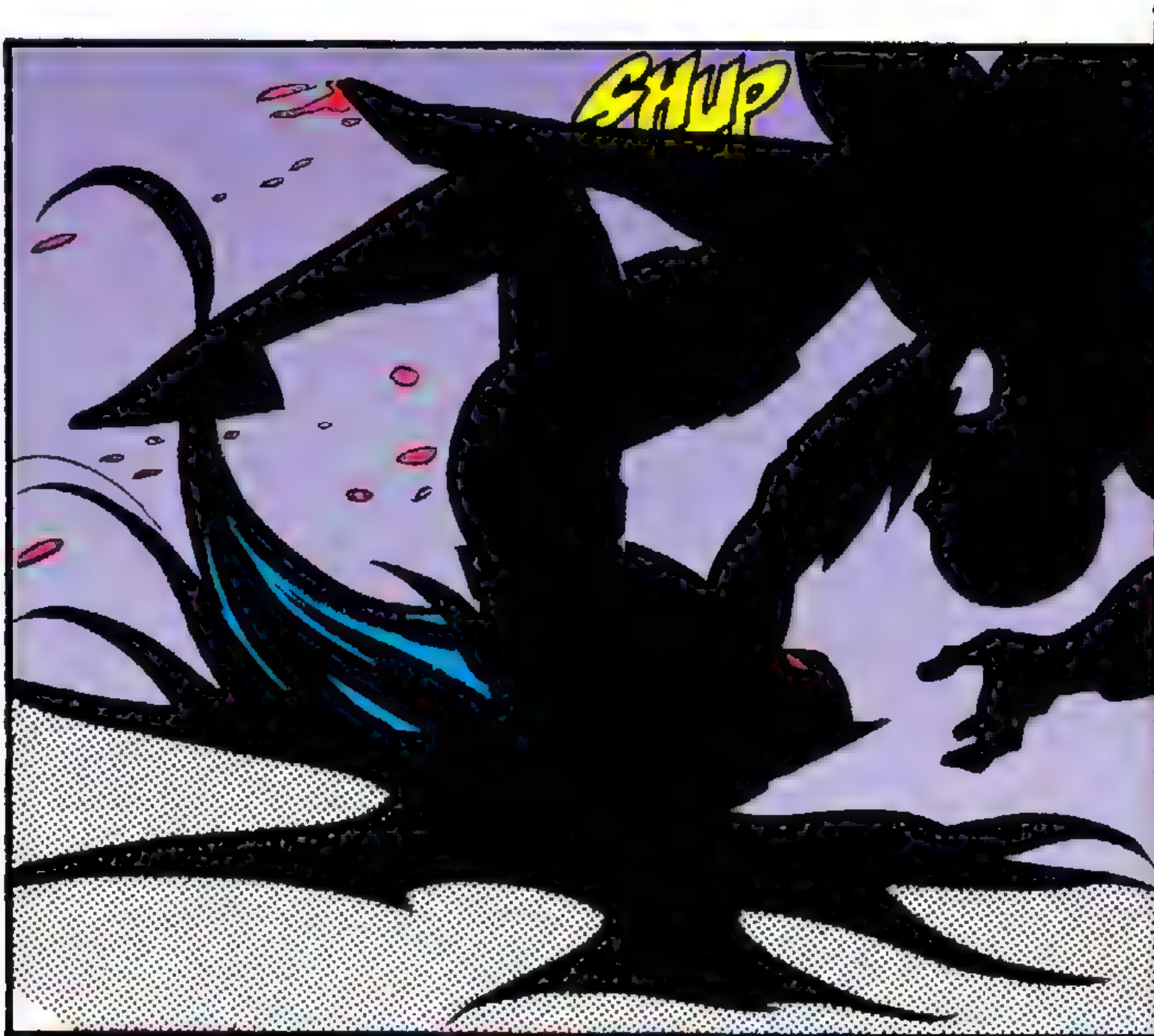
TOO STRONG TO RESIST.

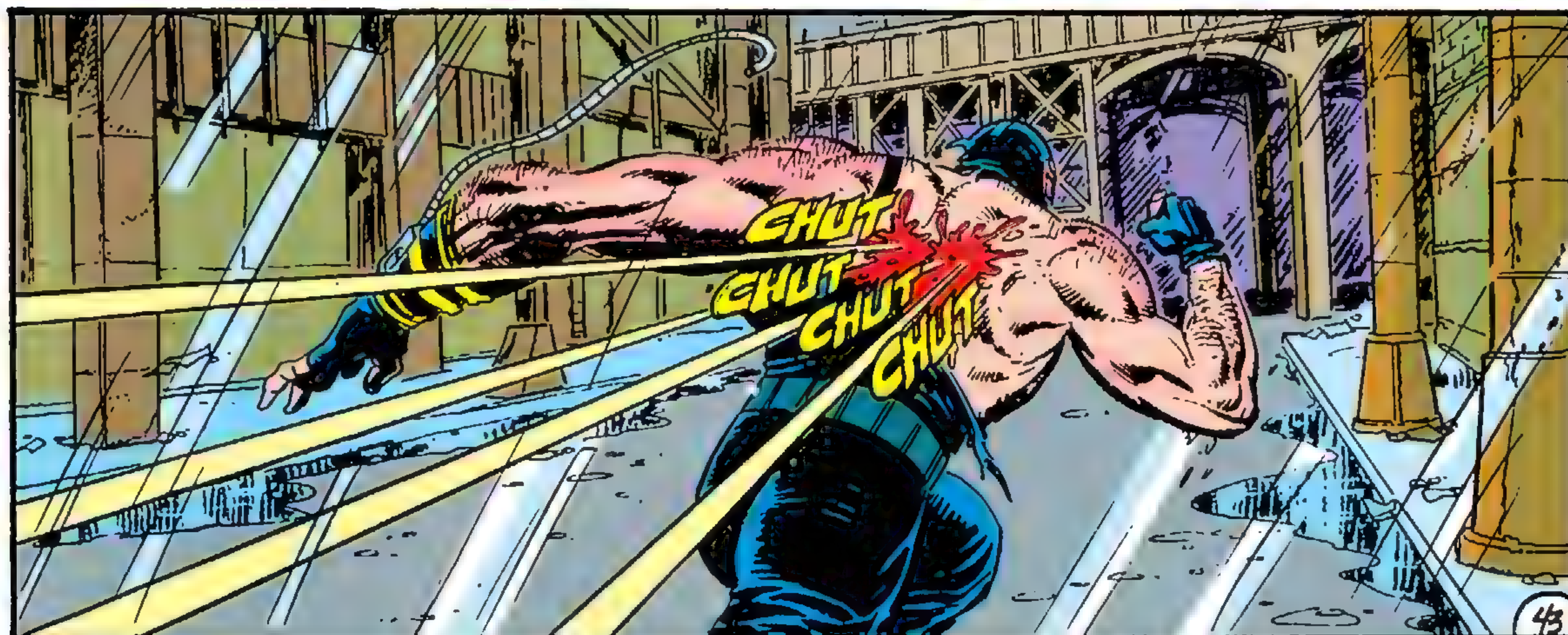
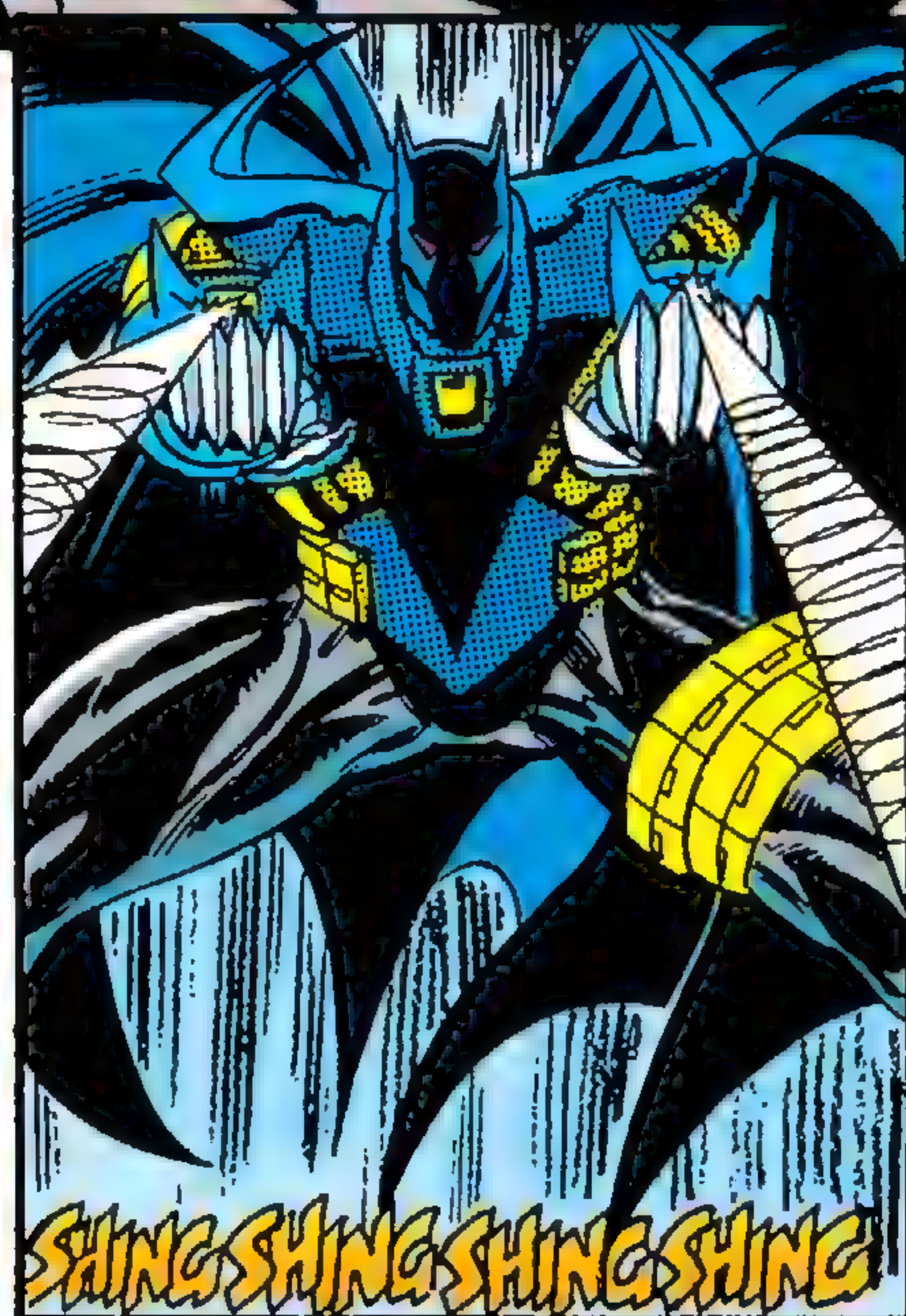
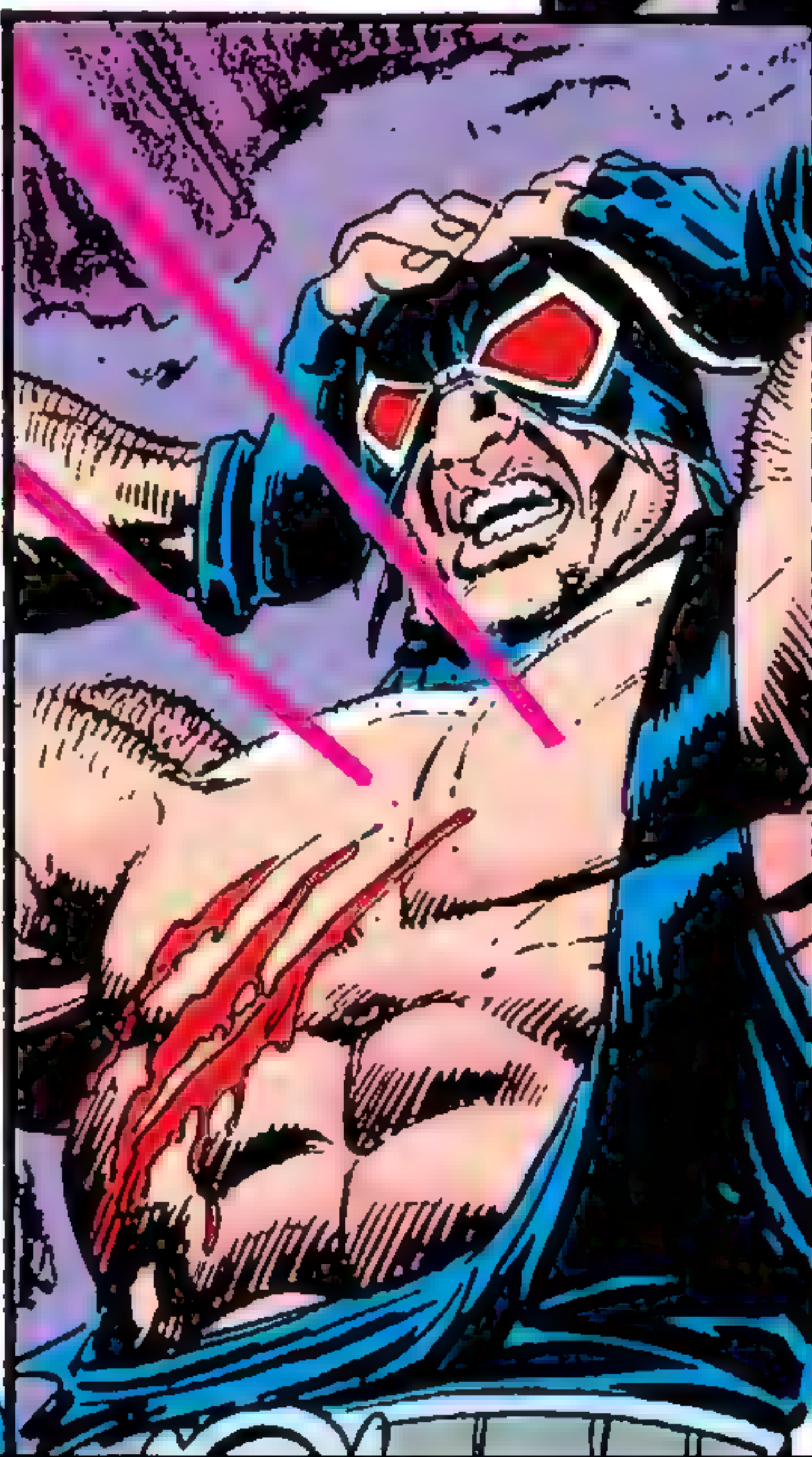
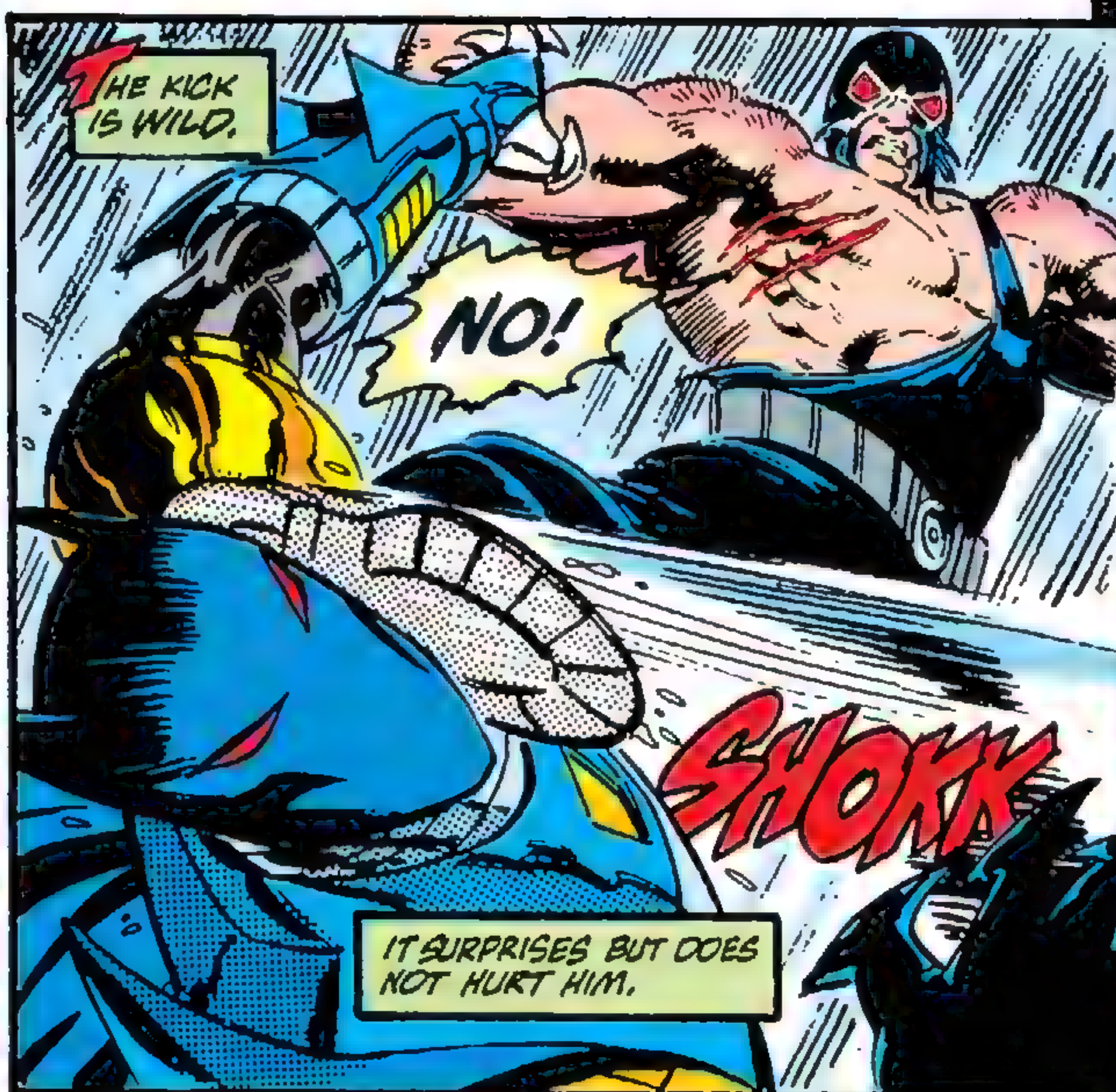
RUAAHHH!

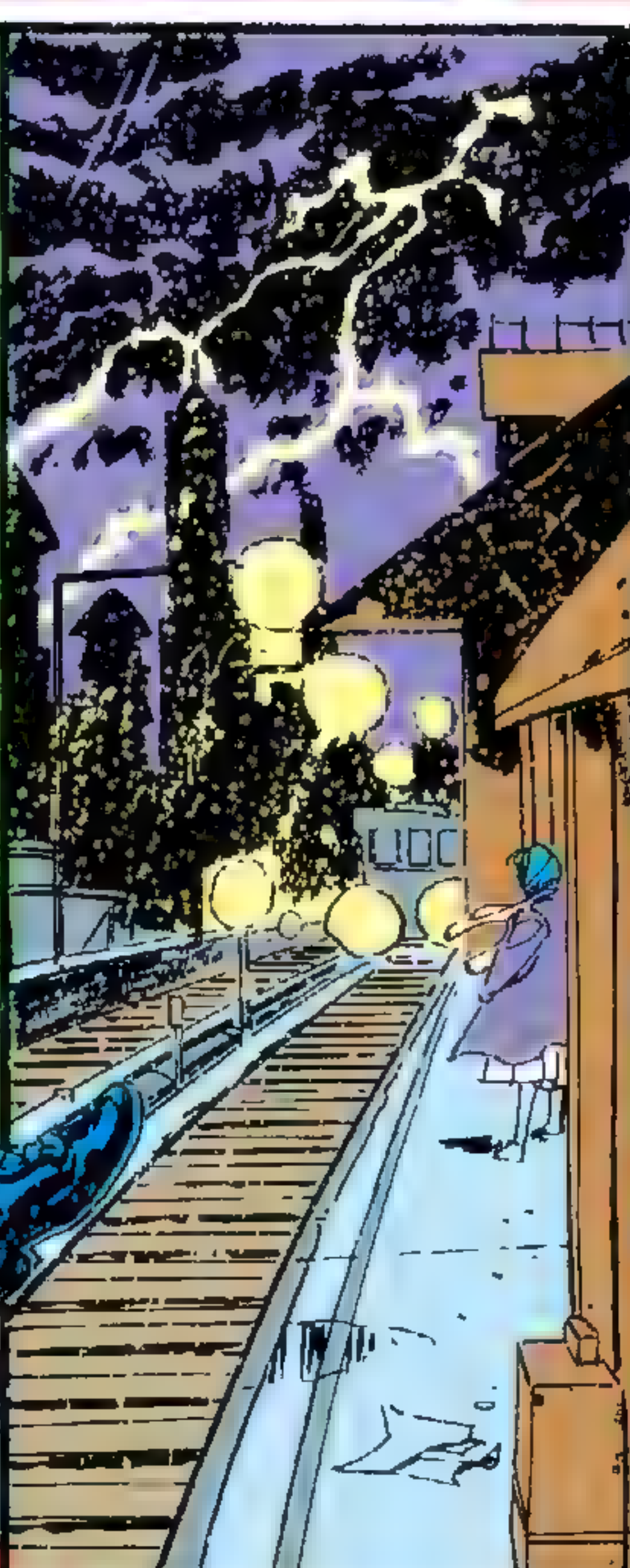
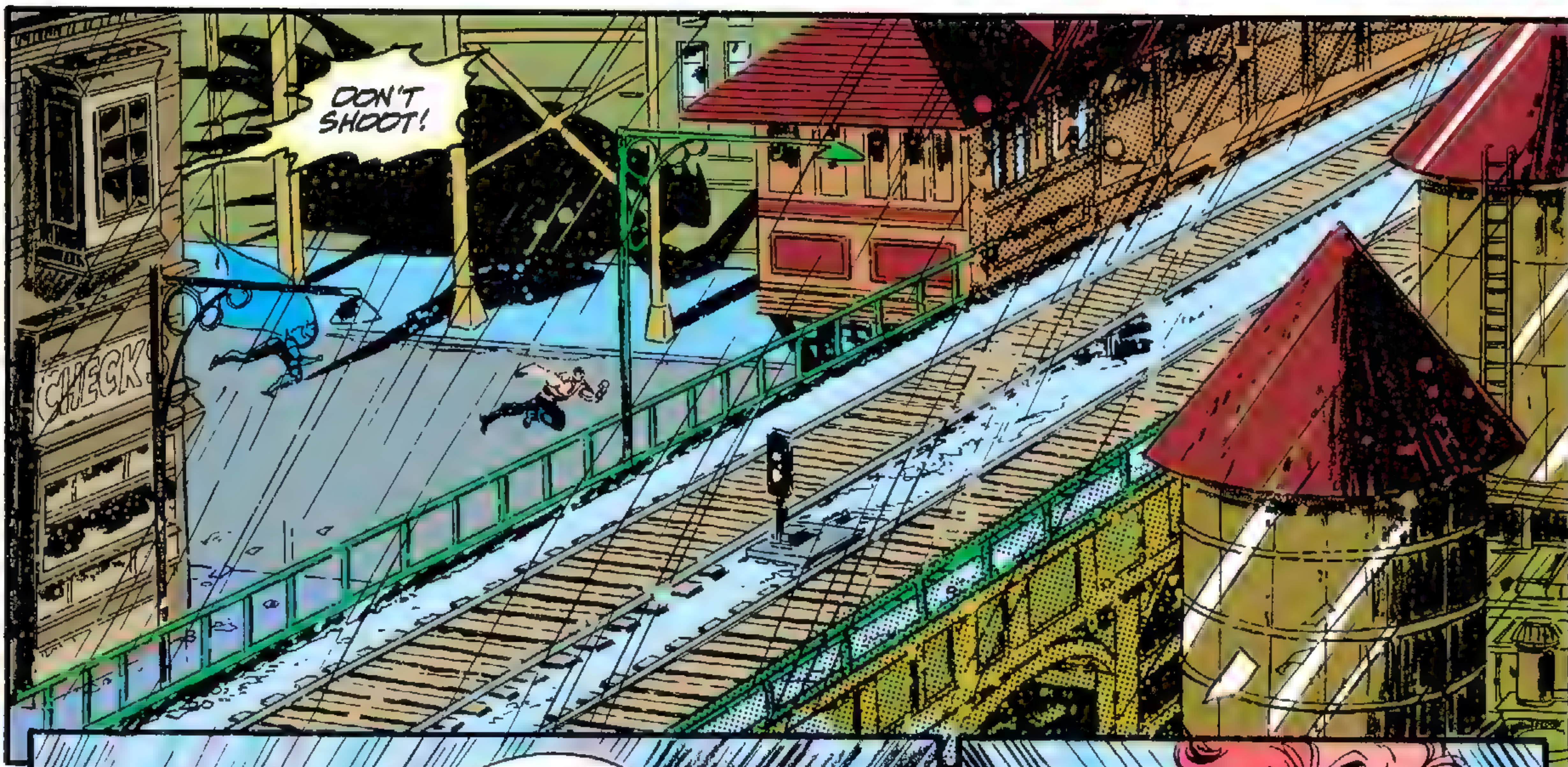
SHUFT

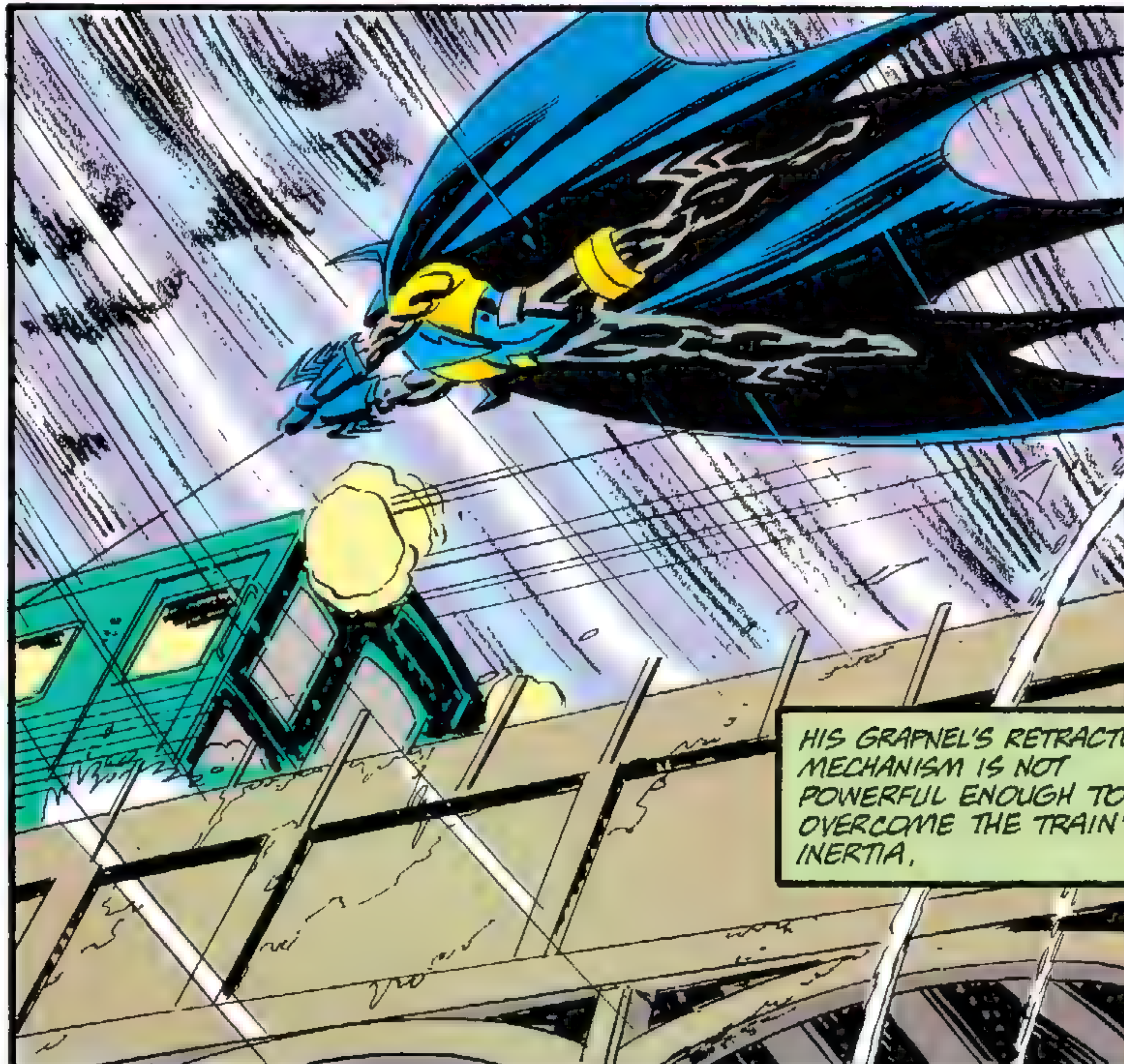
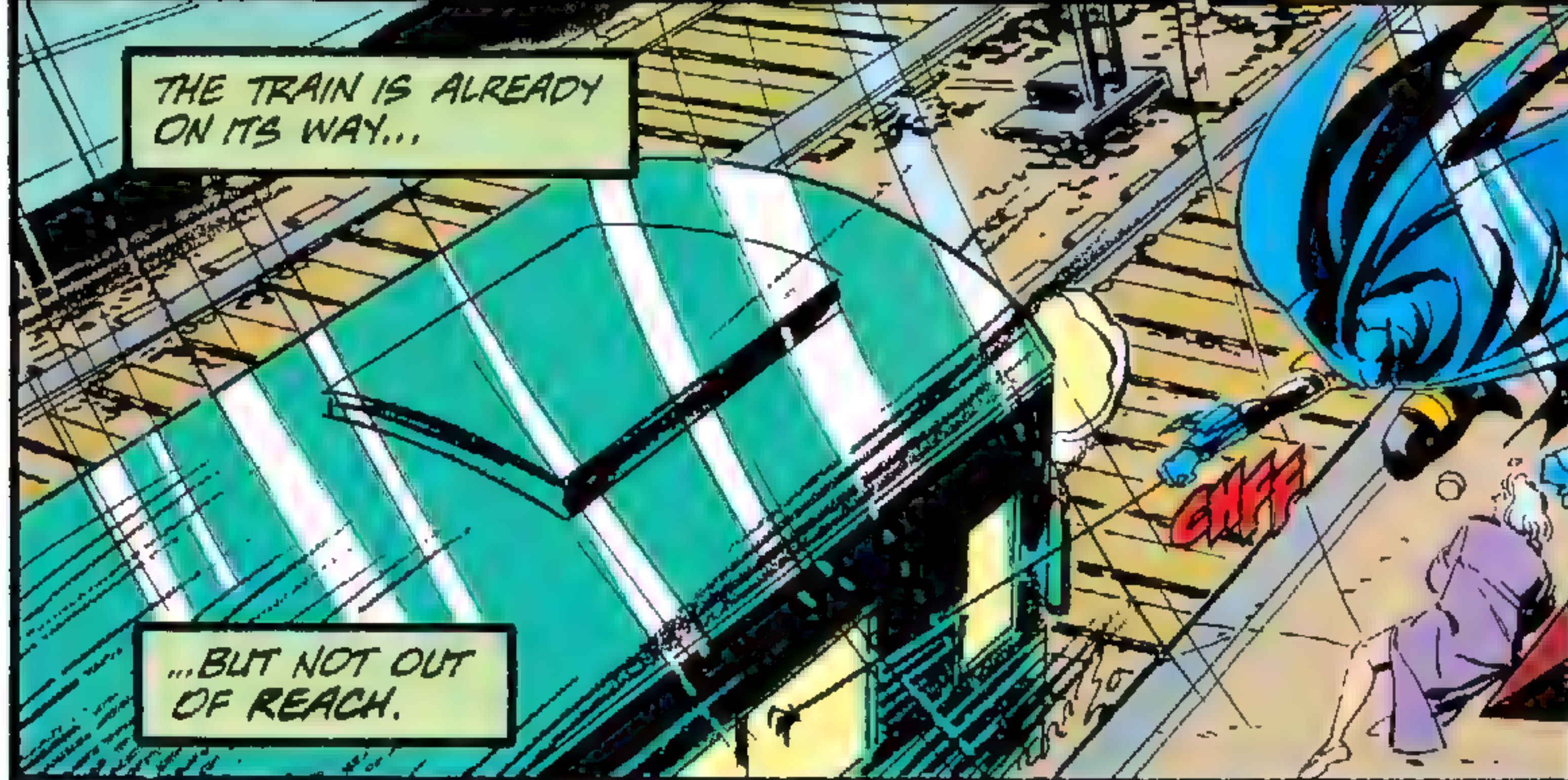
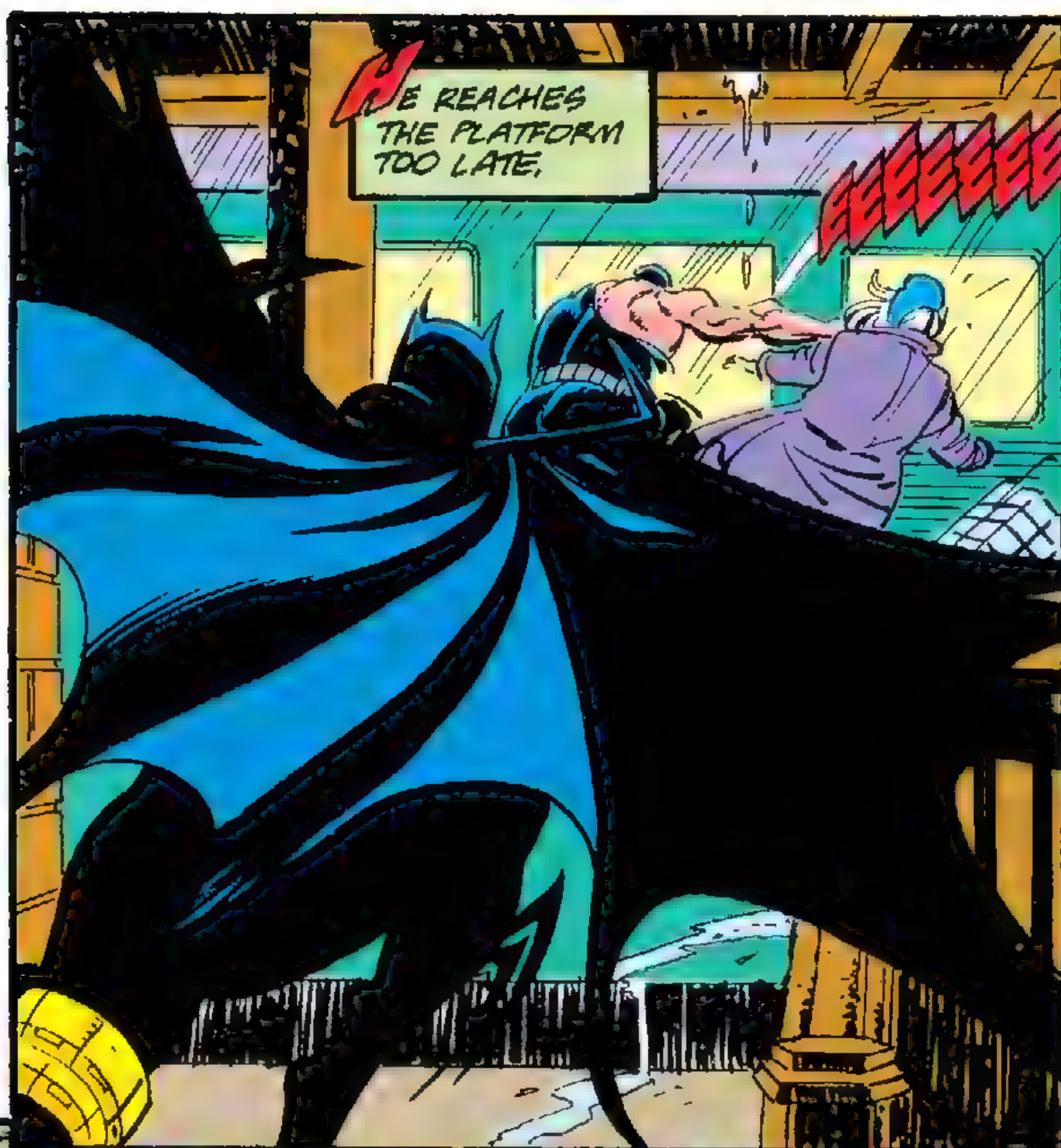
WUMPT





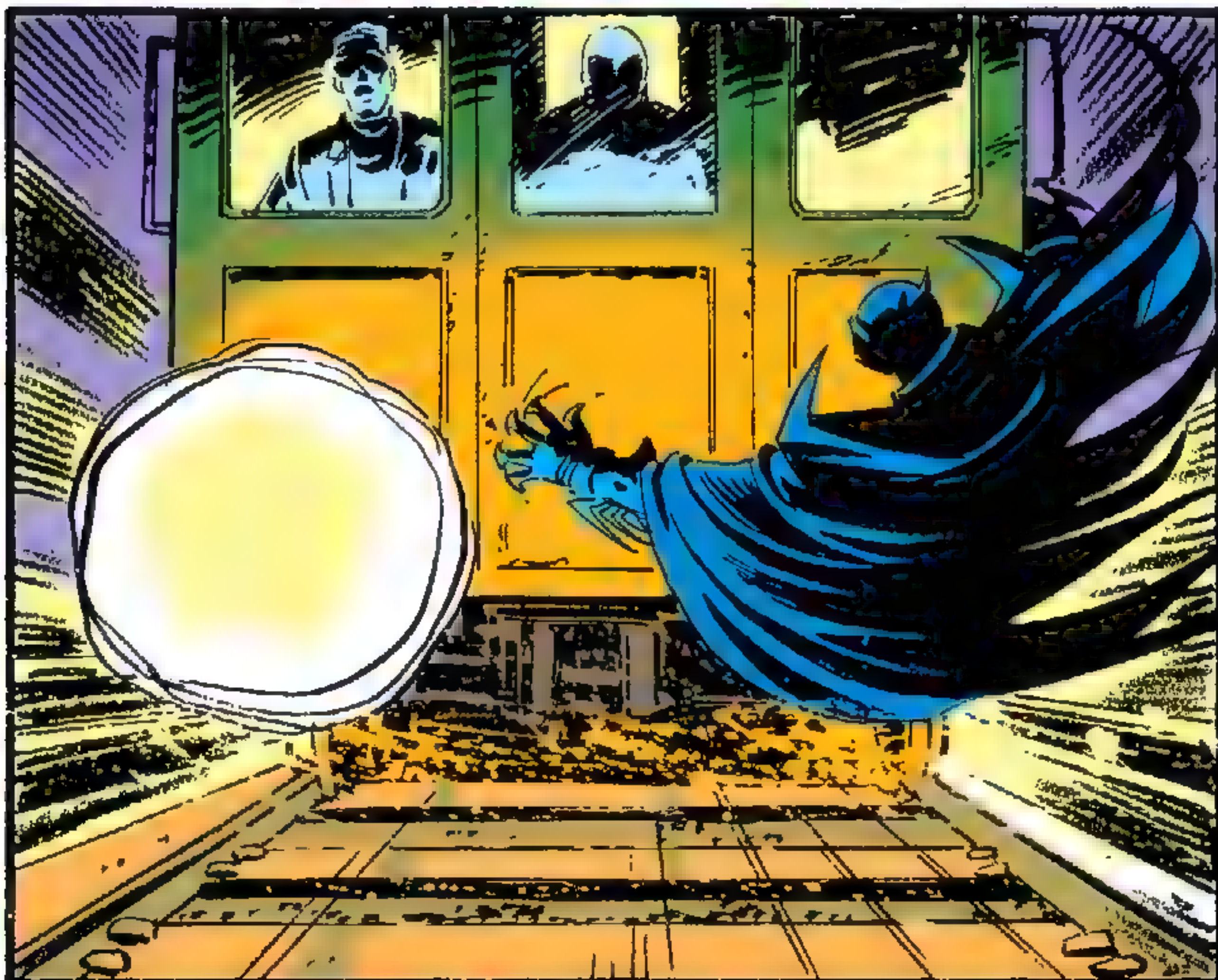
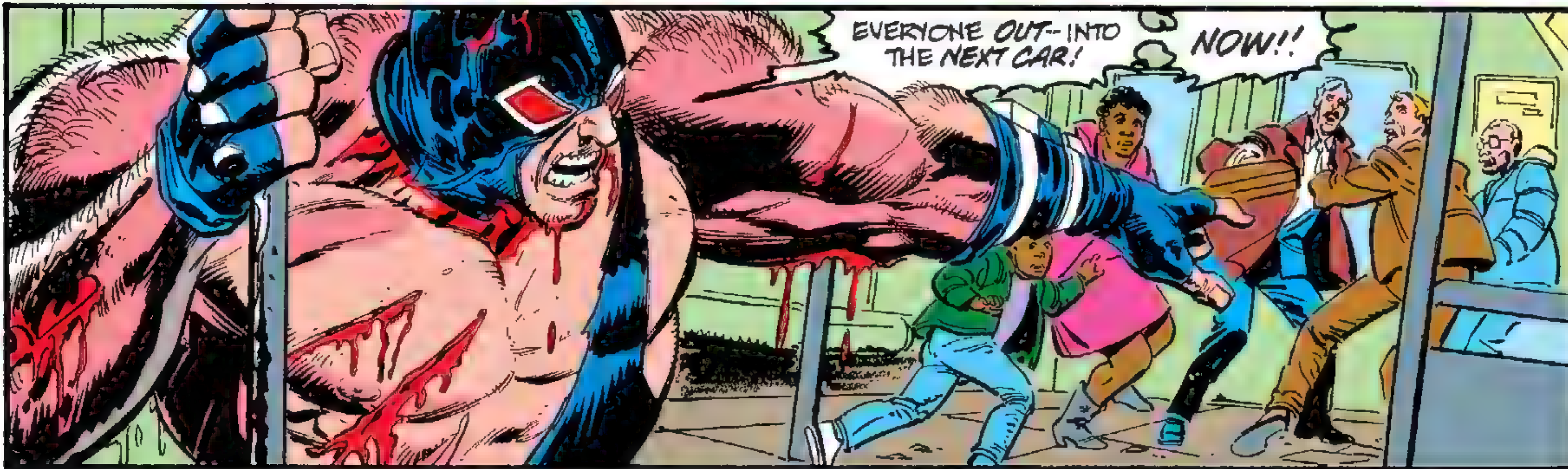
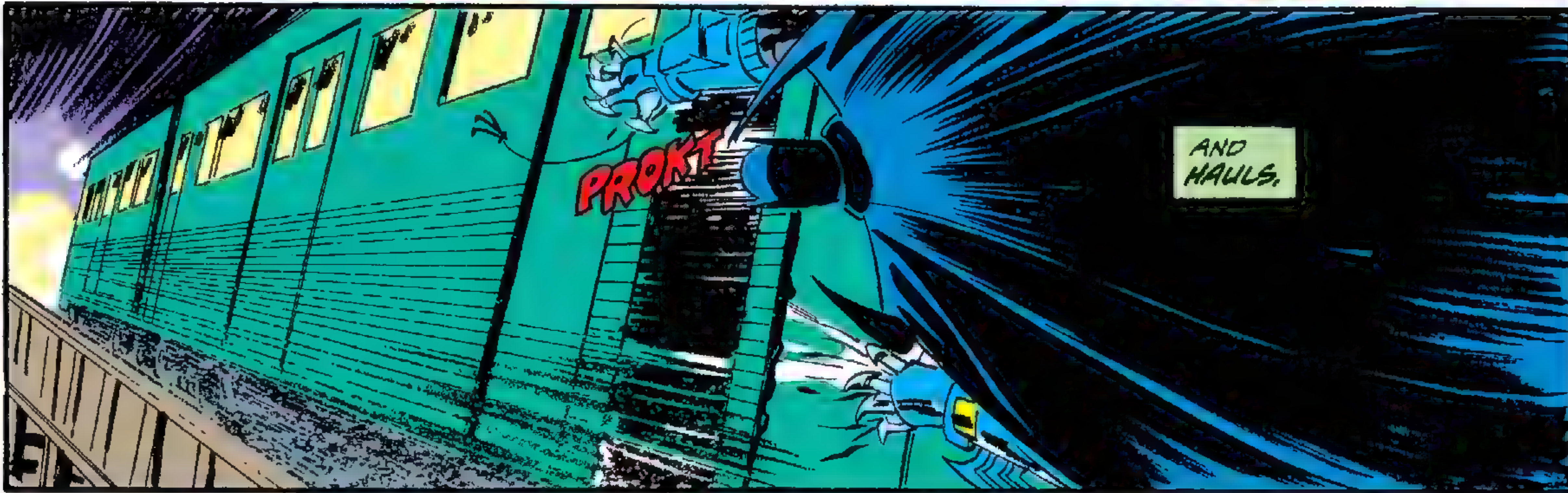
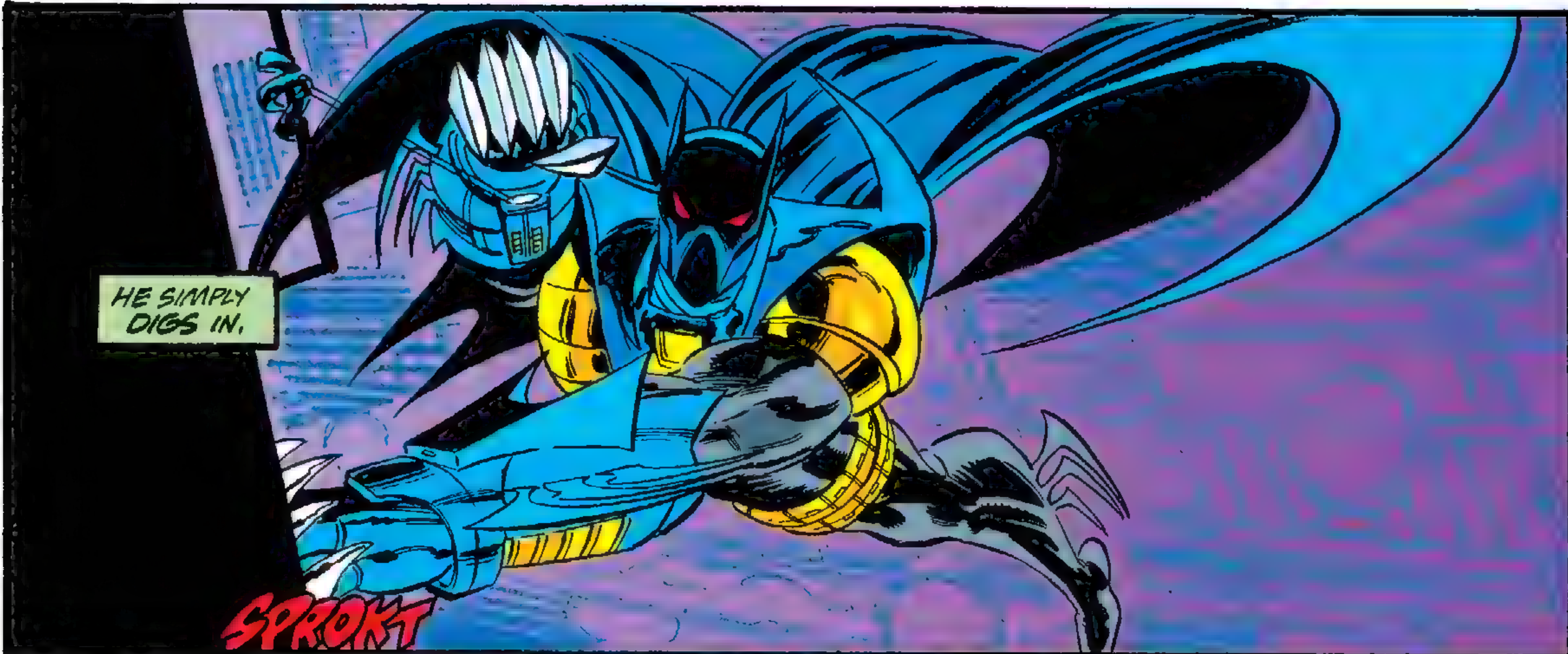


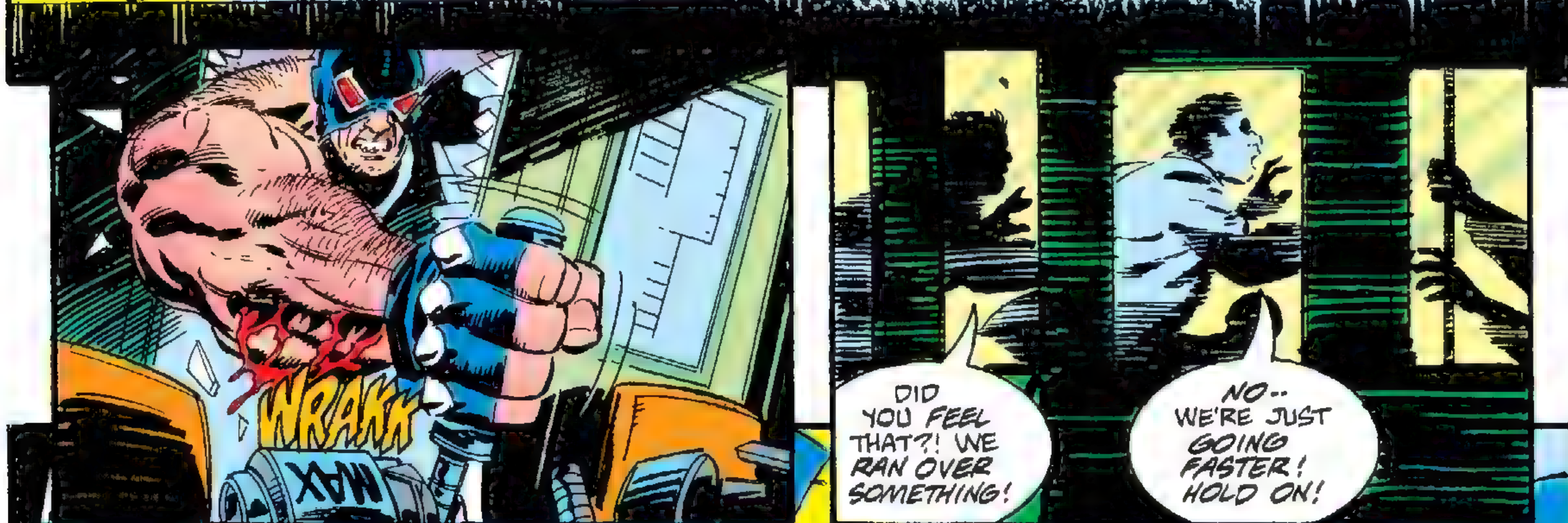
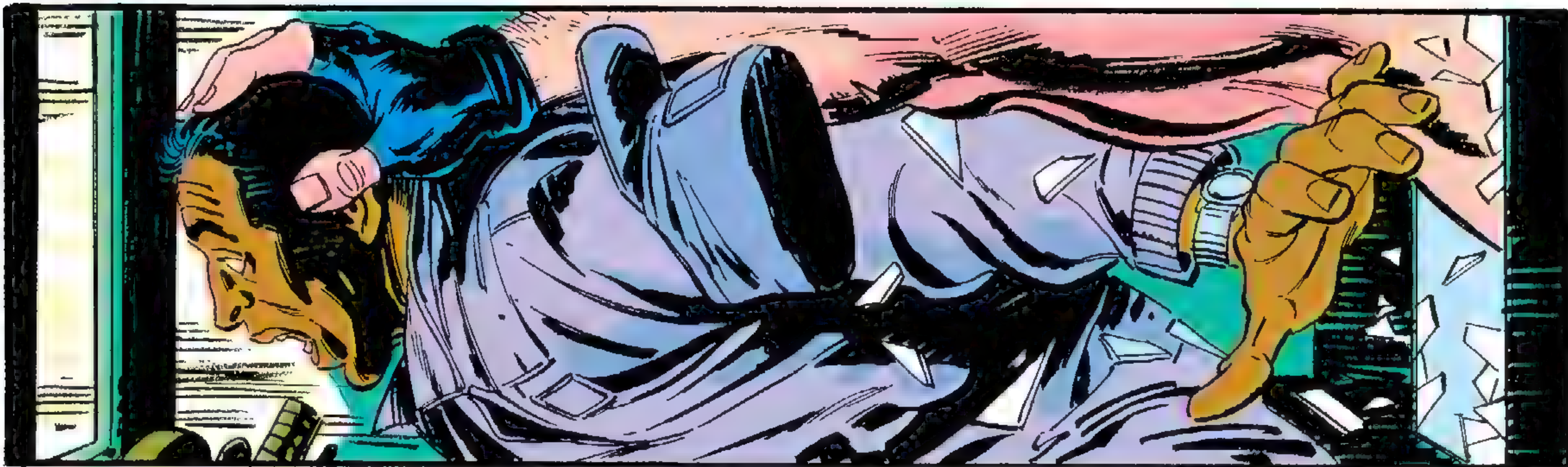


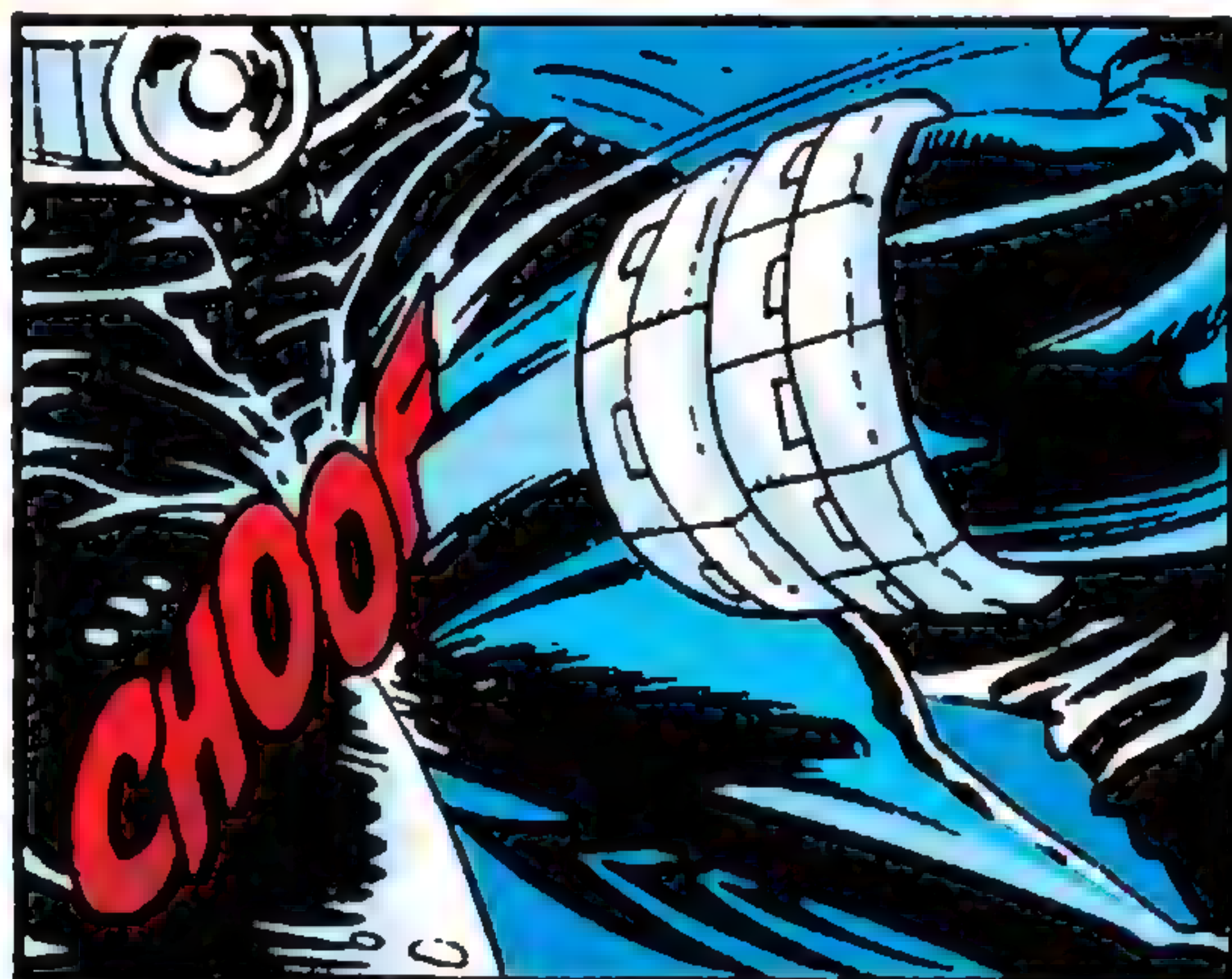
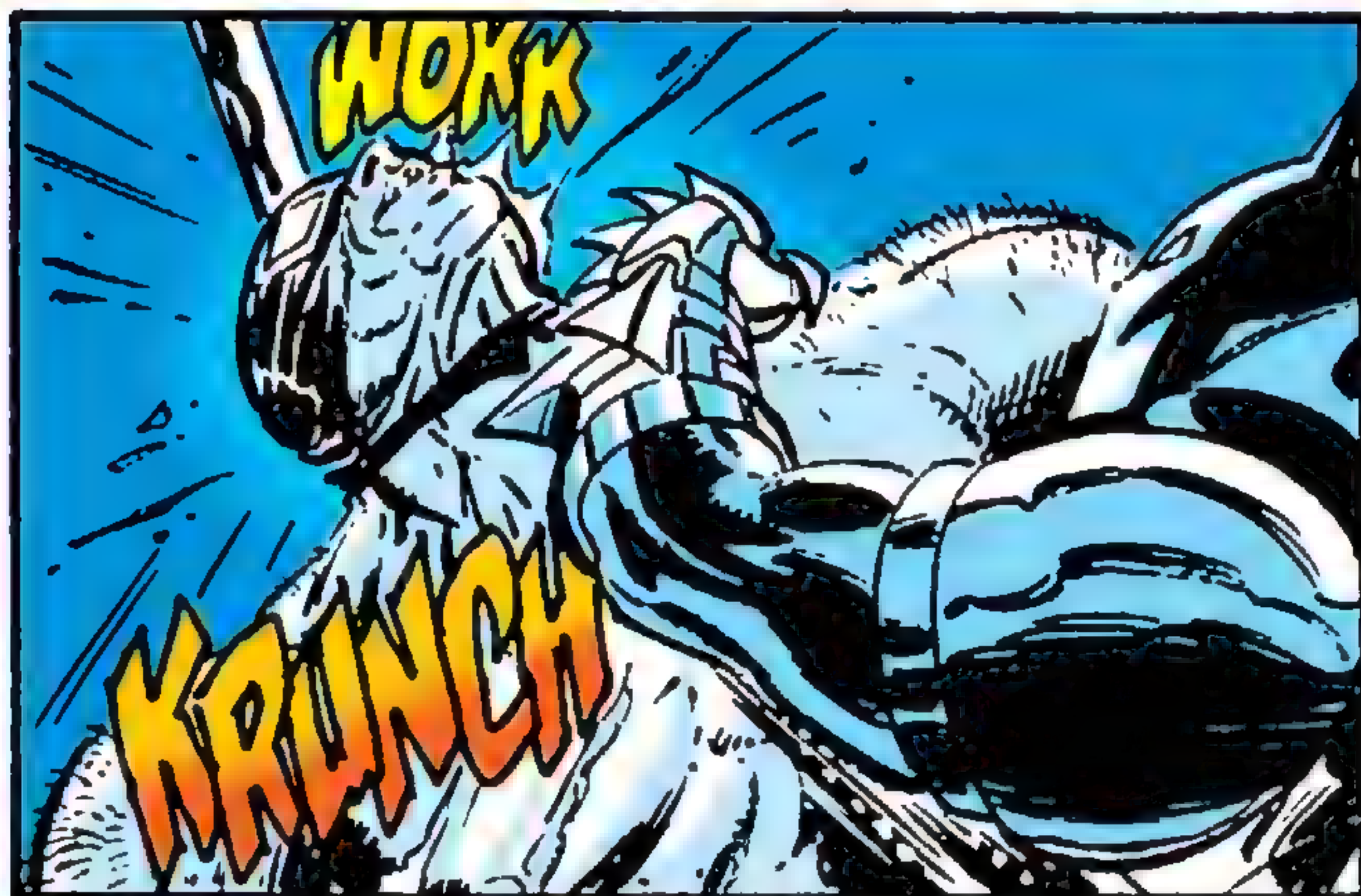
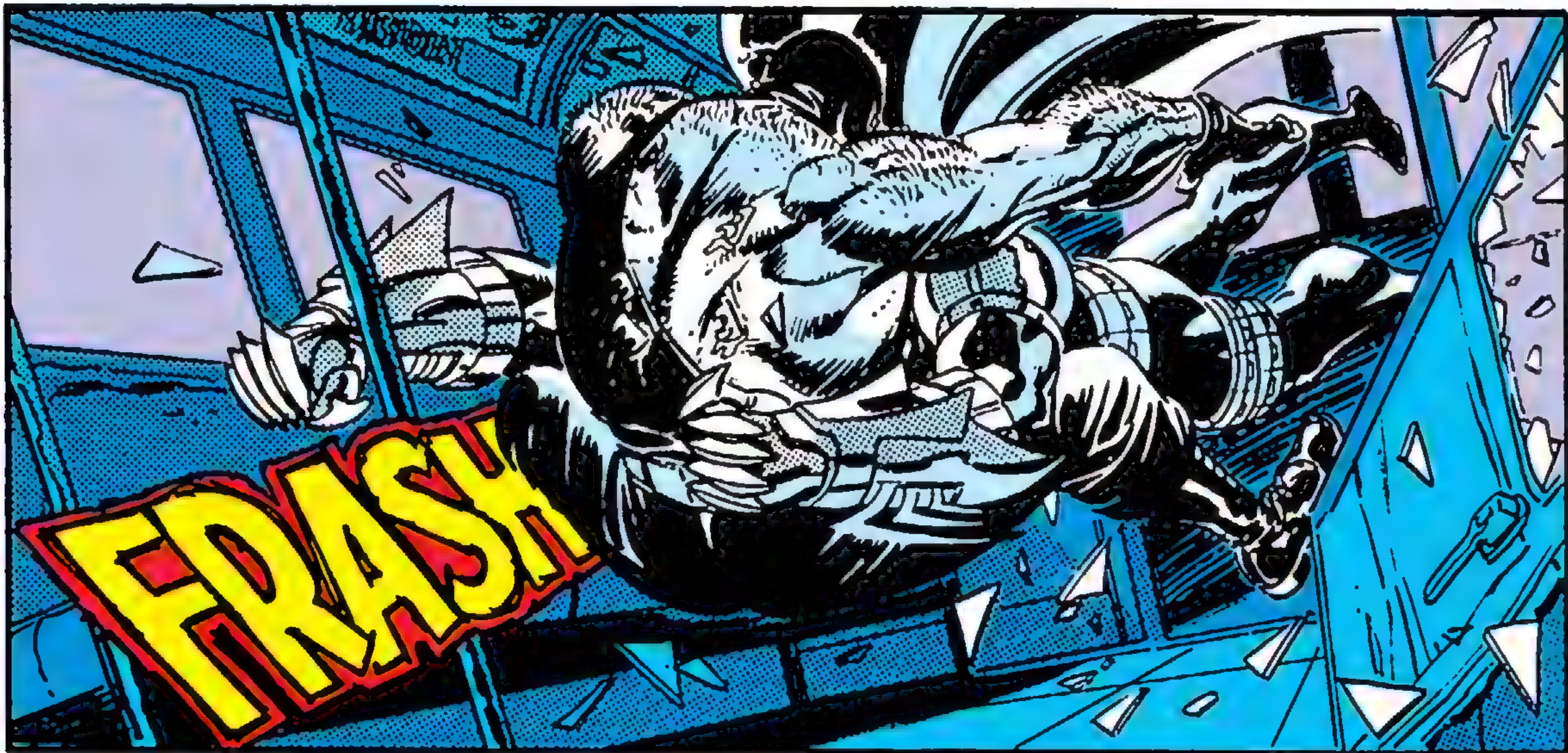


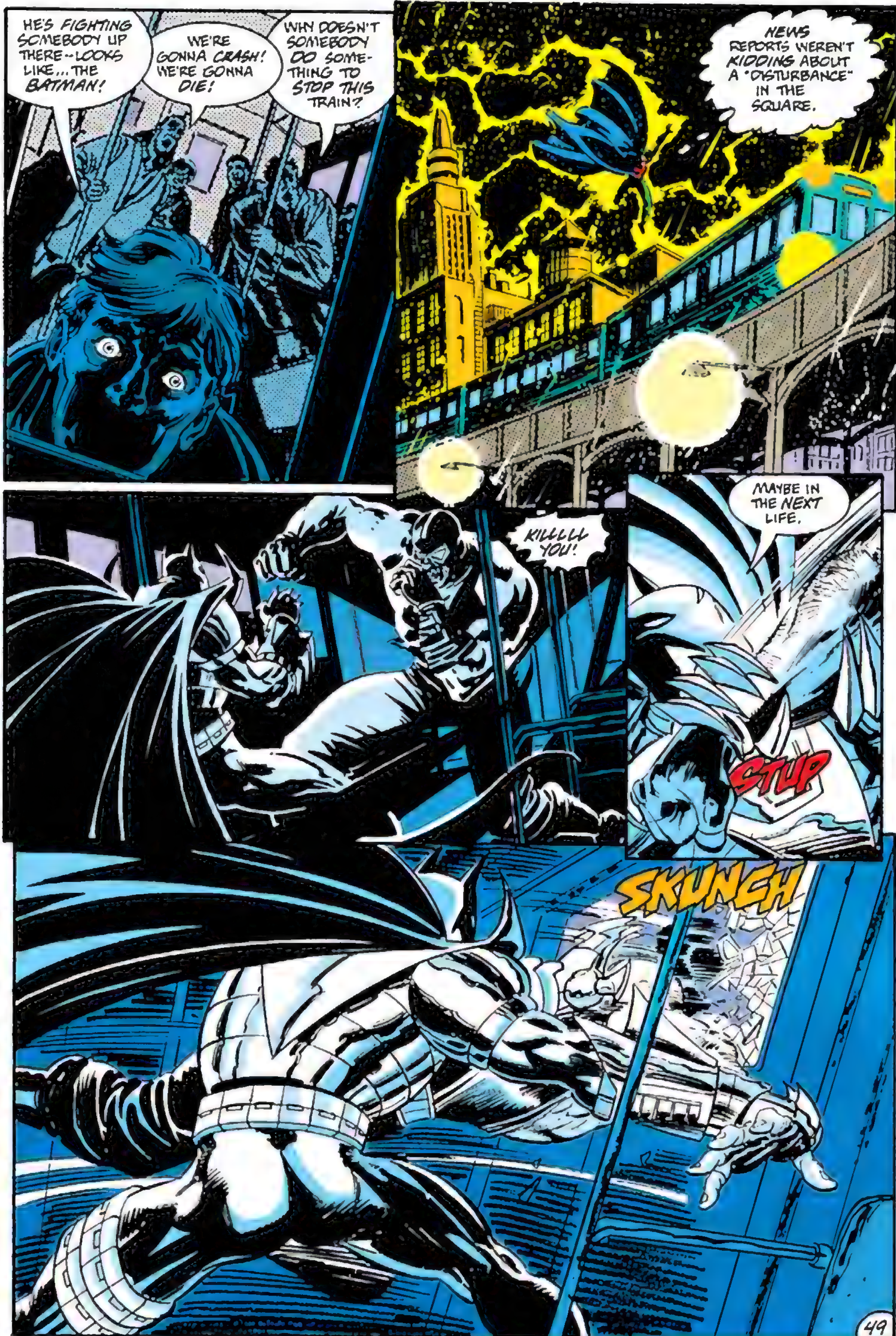
HIS GRAPNEL'S RETRACTOR MECHANISM IS NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE TRAIN'S INERTIA.

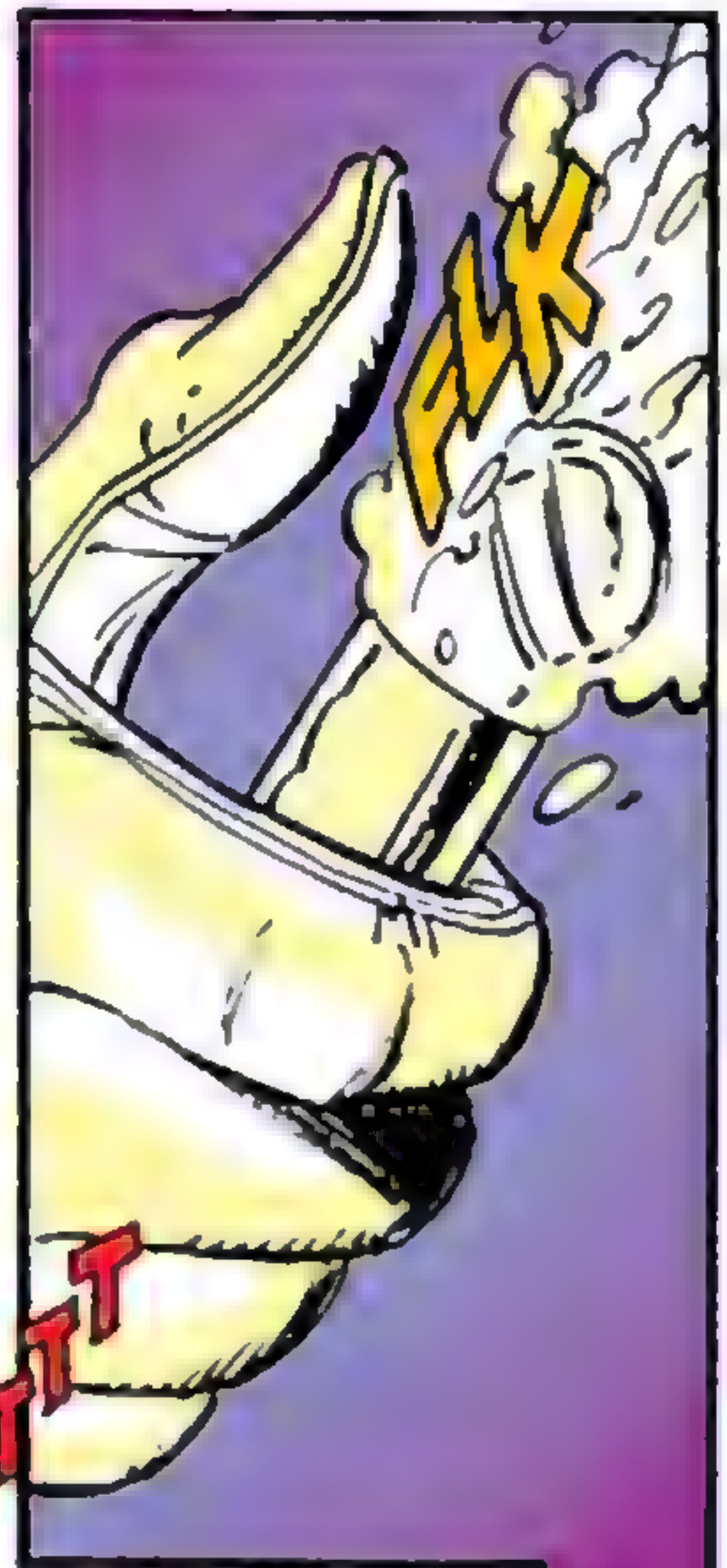
HE DOES NOT NEED THE SYSTEM TO REACH A SOLUTION...

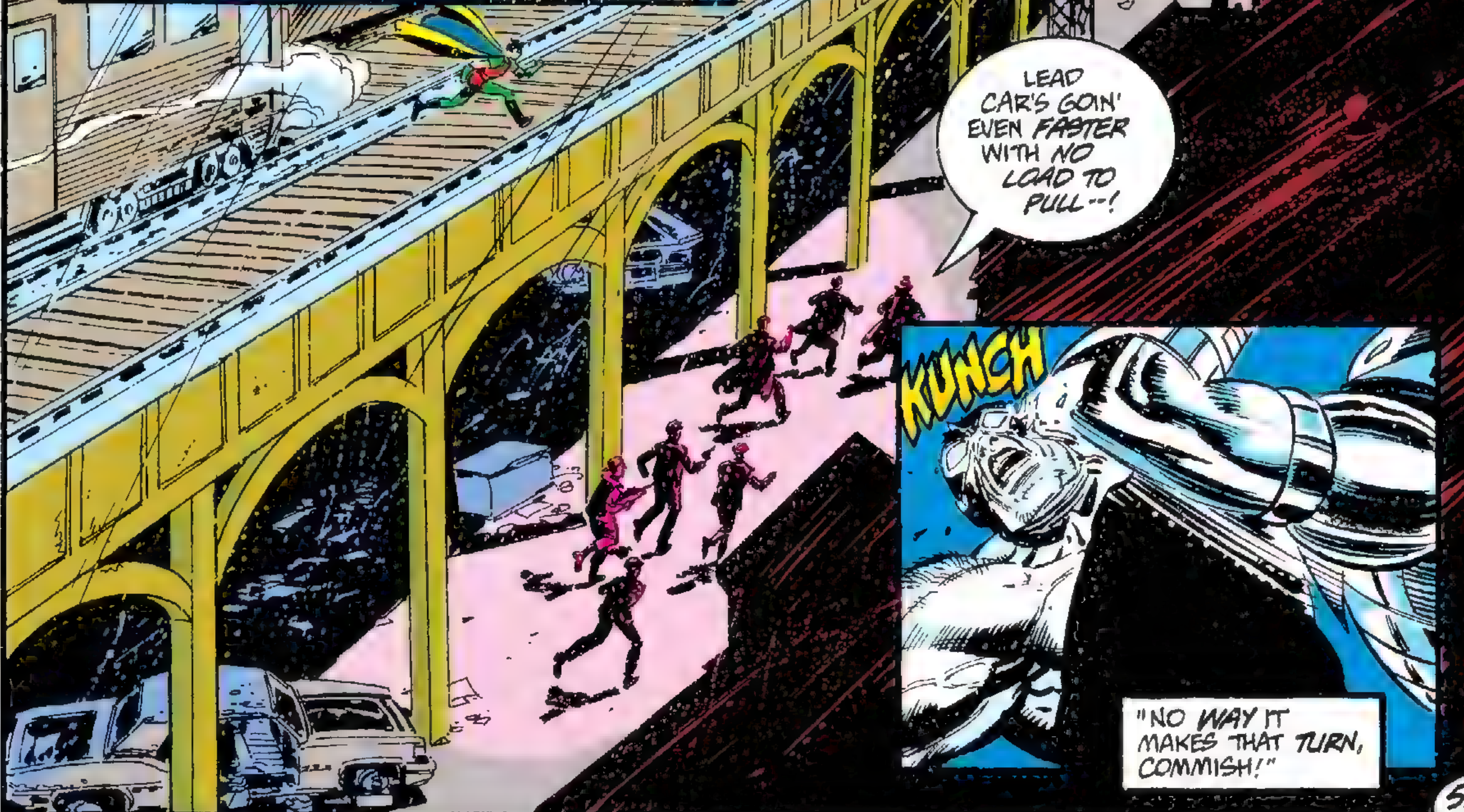
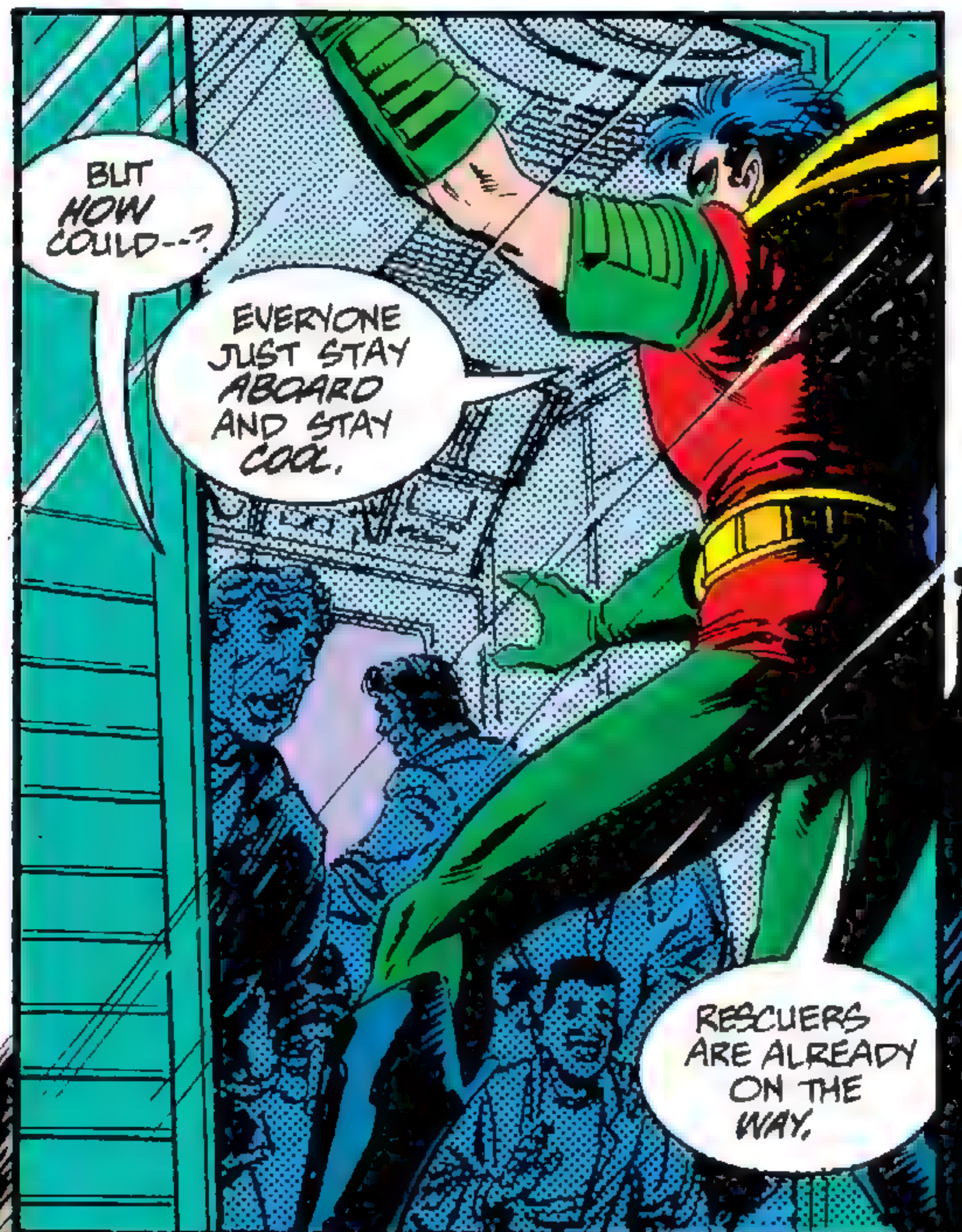
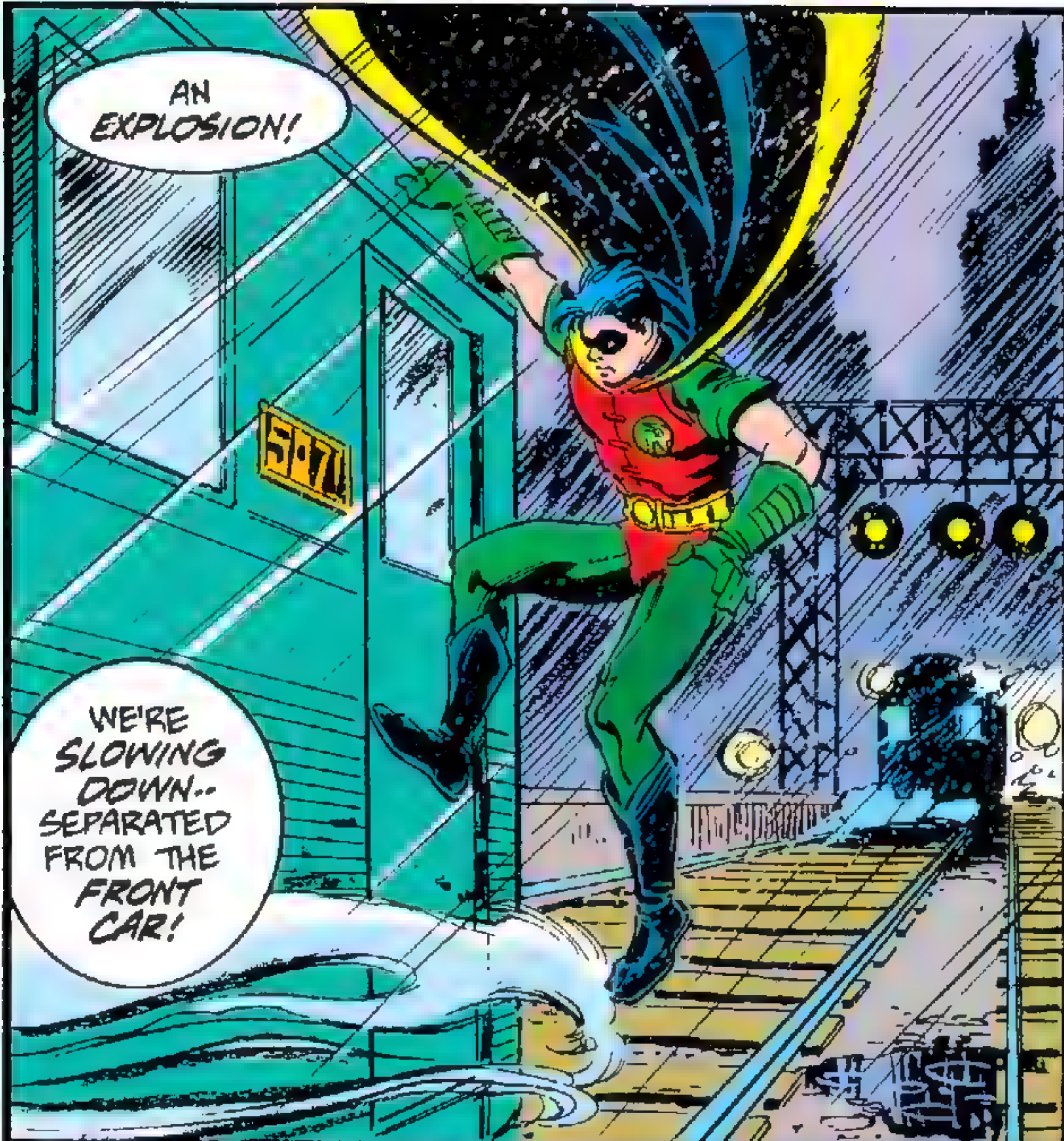




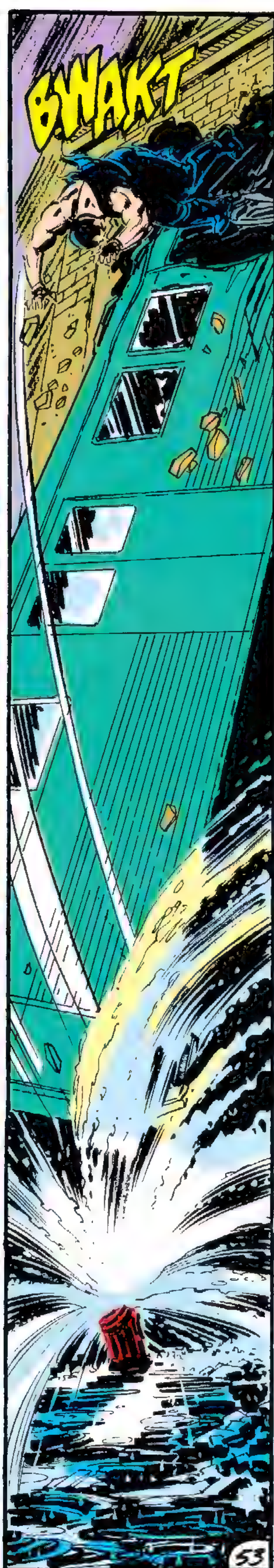
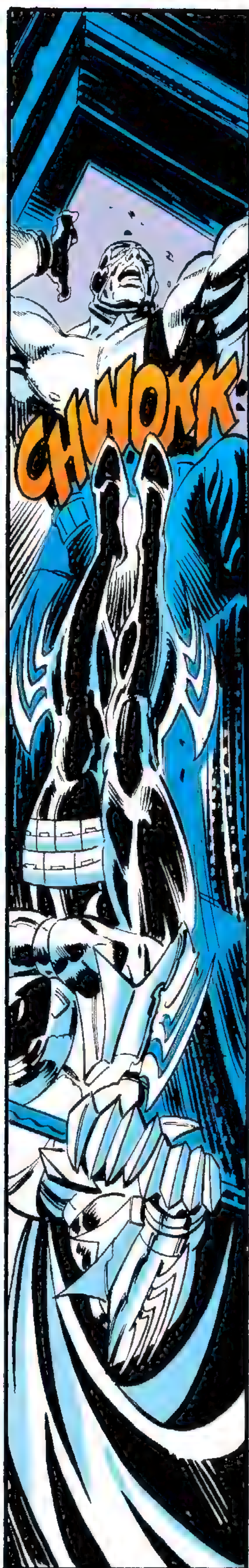
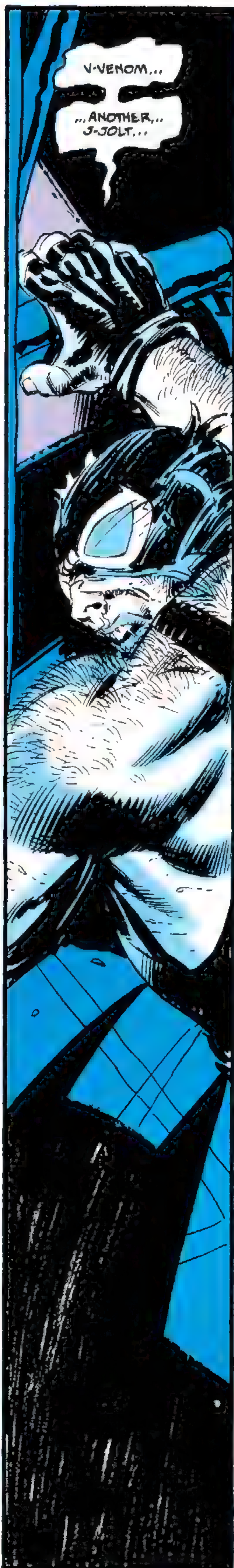
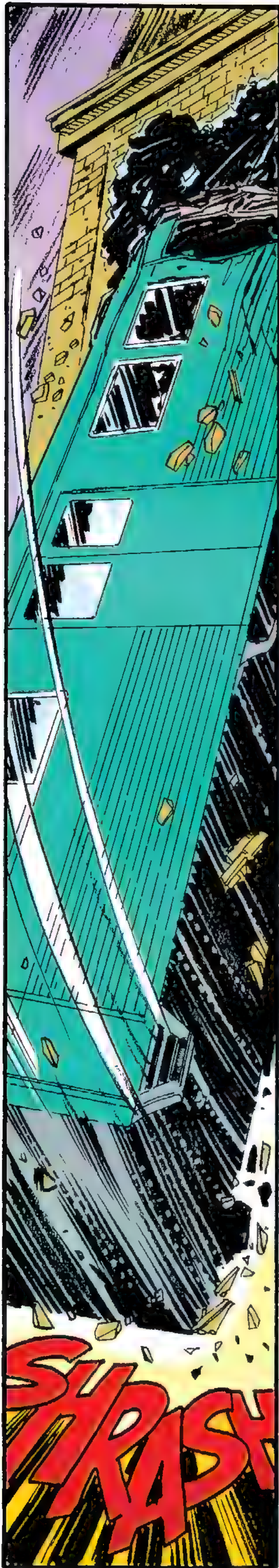


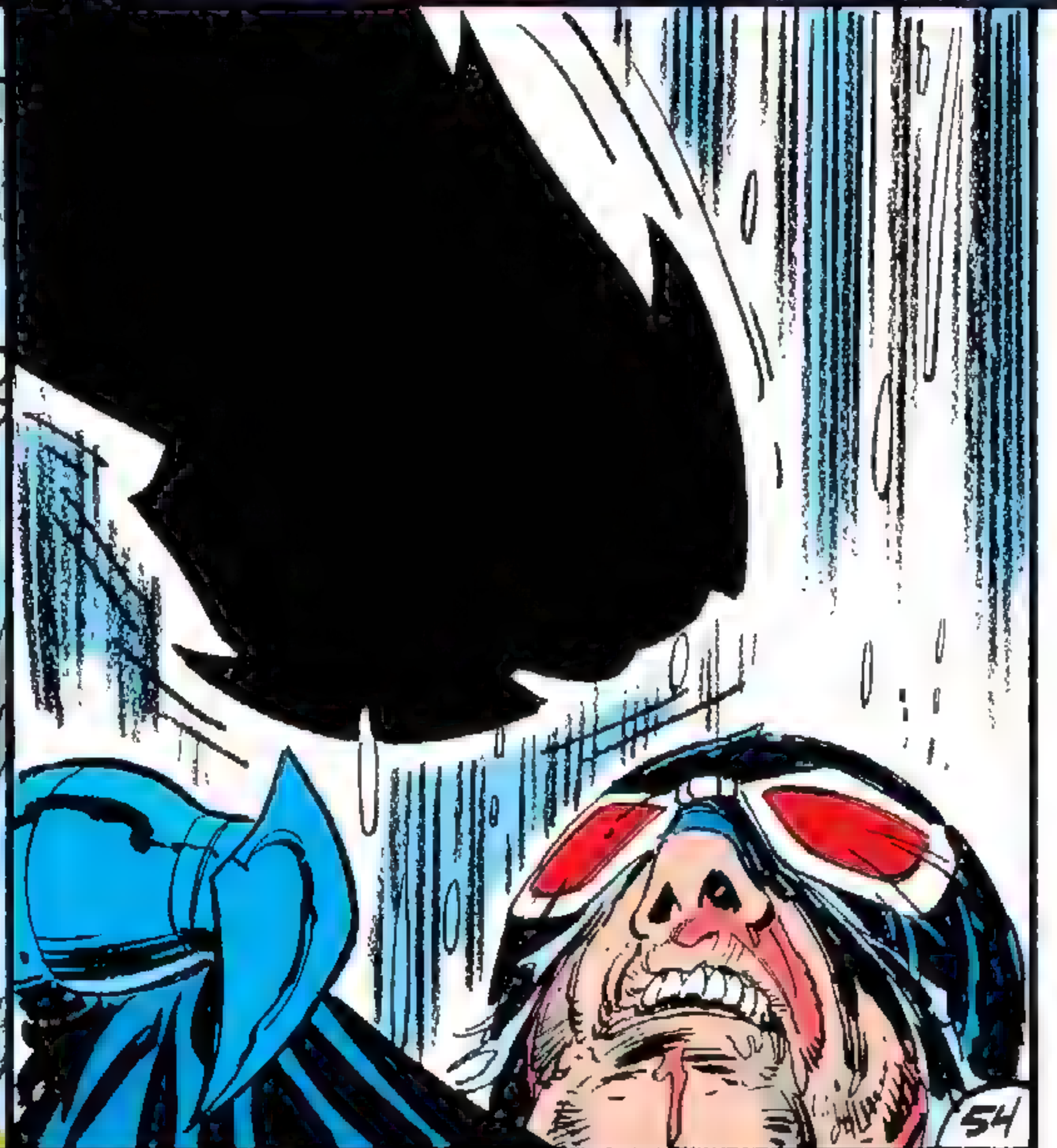
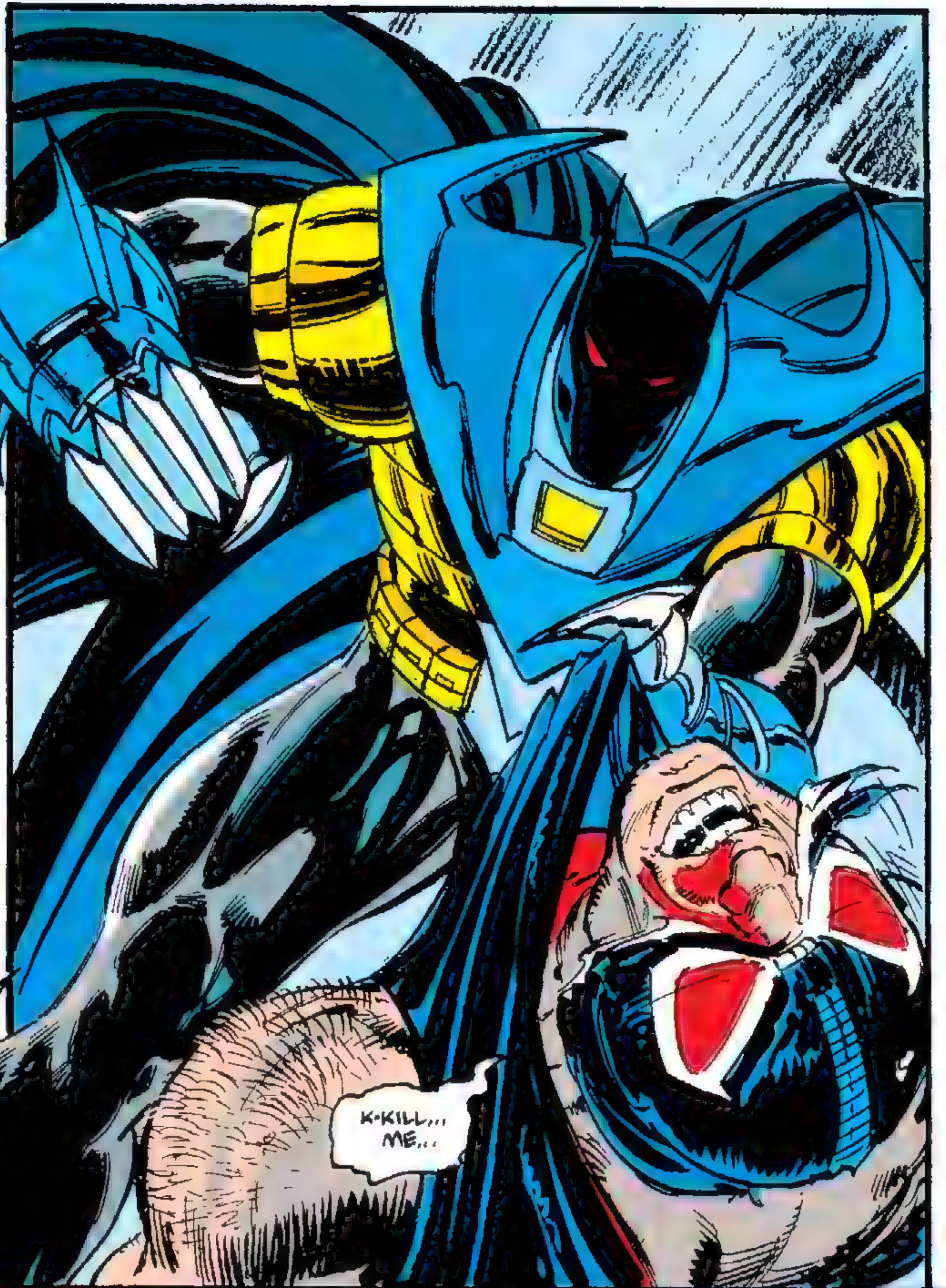


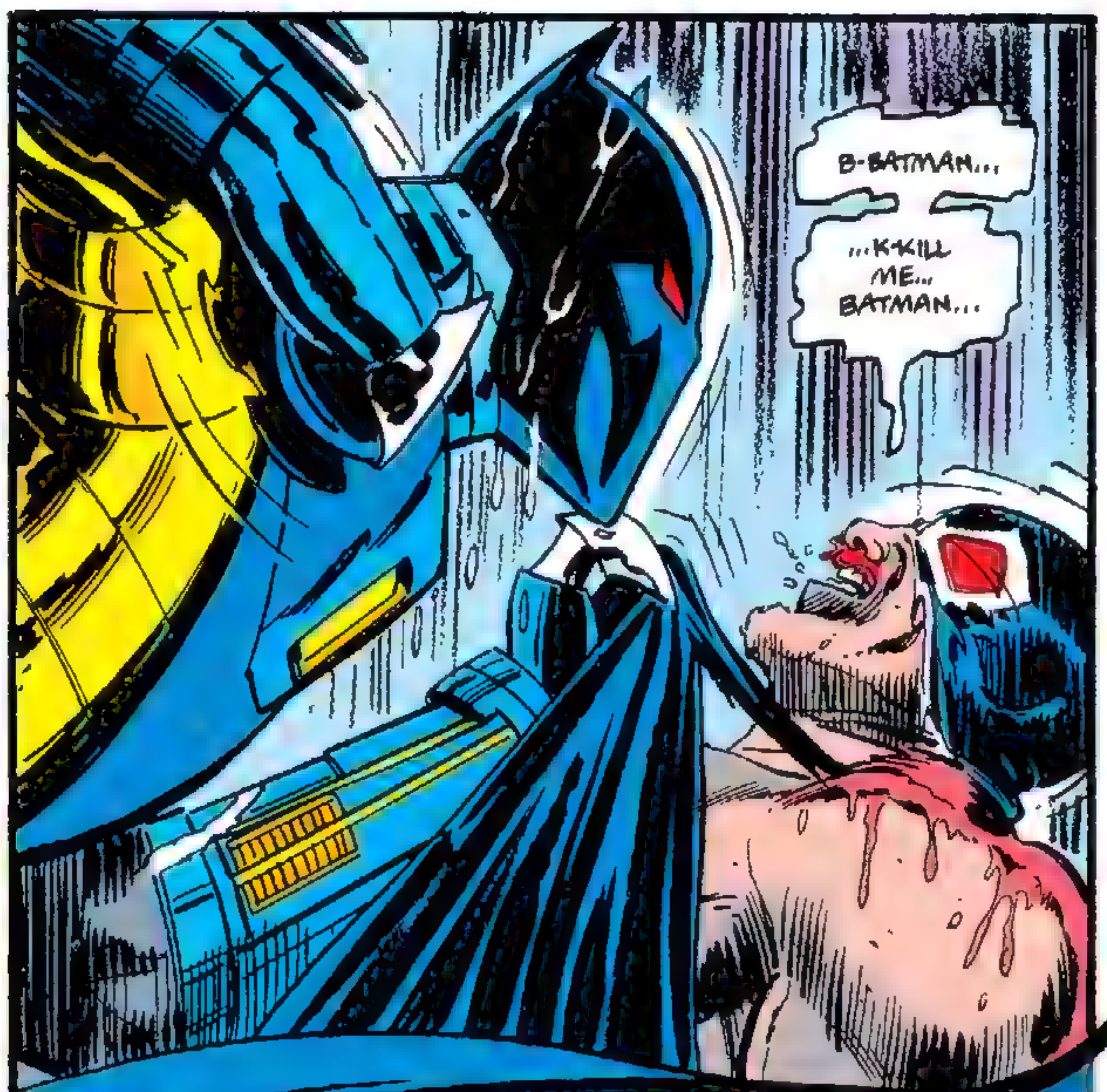




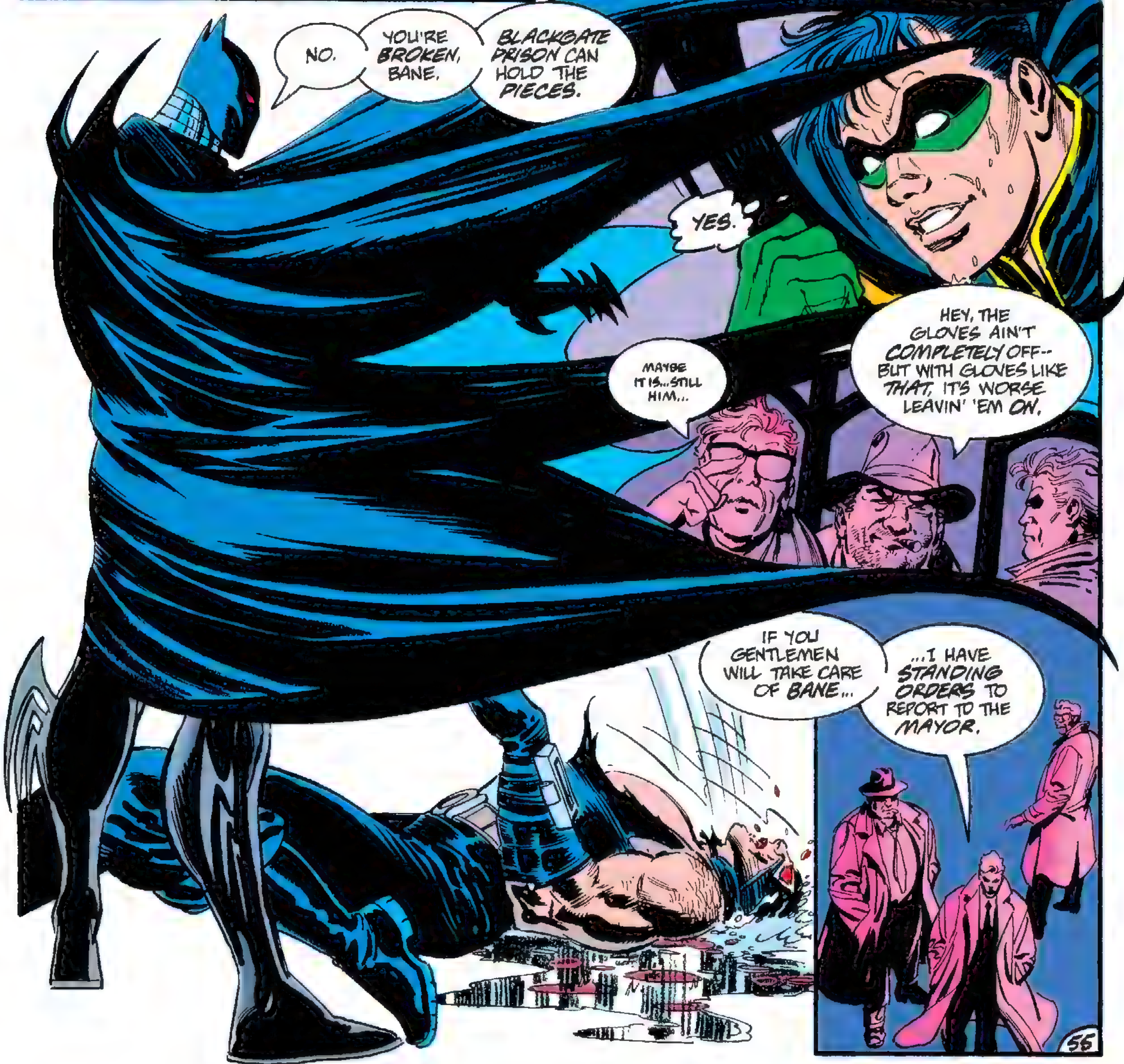








B-BATMAN...
...KILL
ME...
BATMAN...



NO.
YOU'RE
BROKEN,
BANE.
BLACKGATE
PRISON CAN
HOLD THE
PIECES.

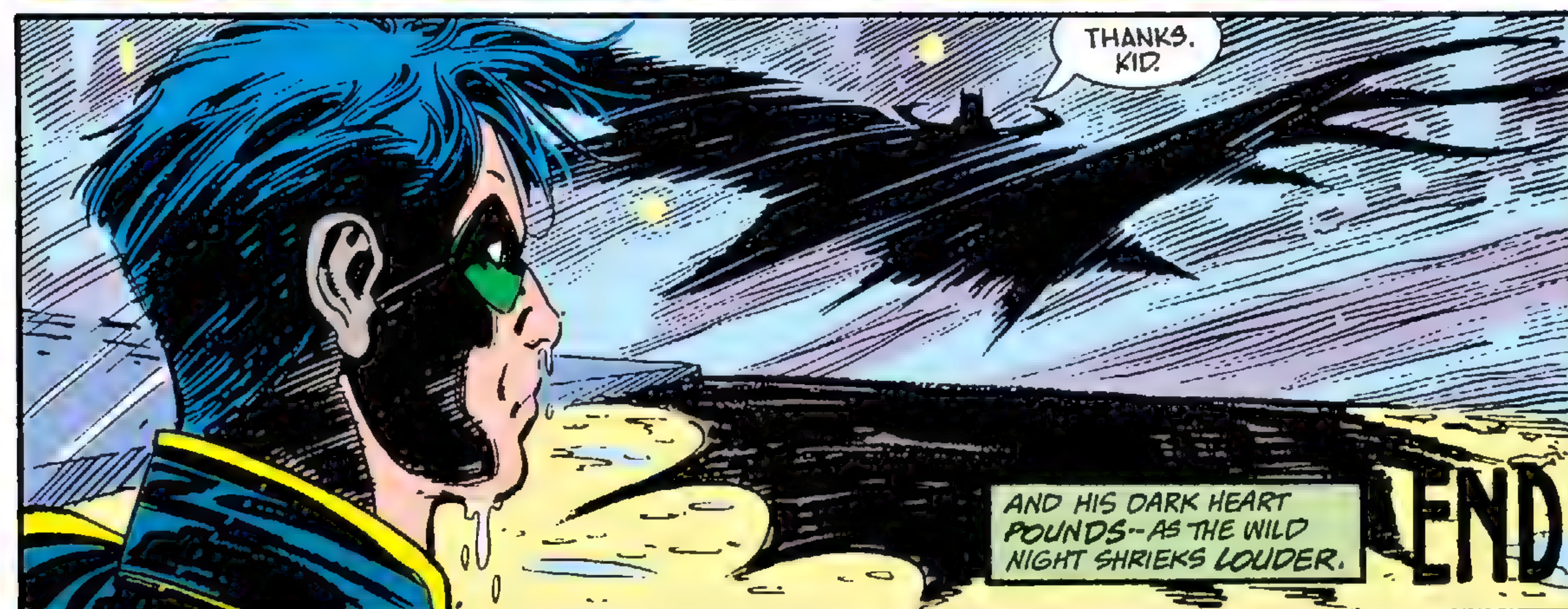
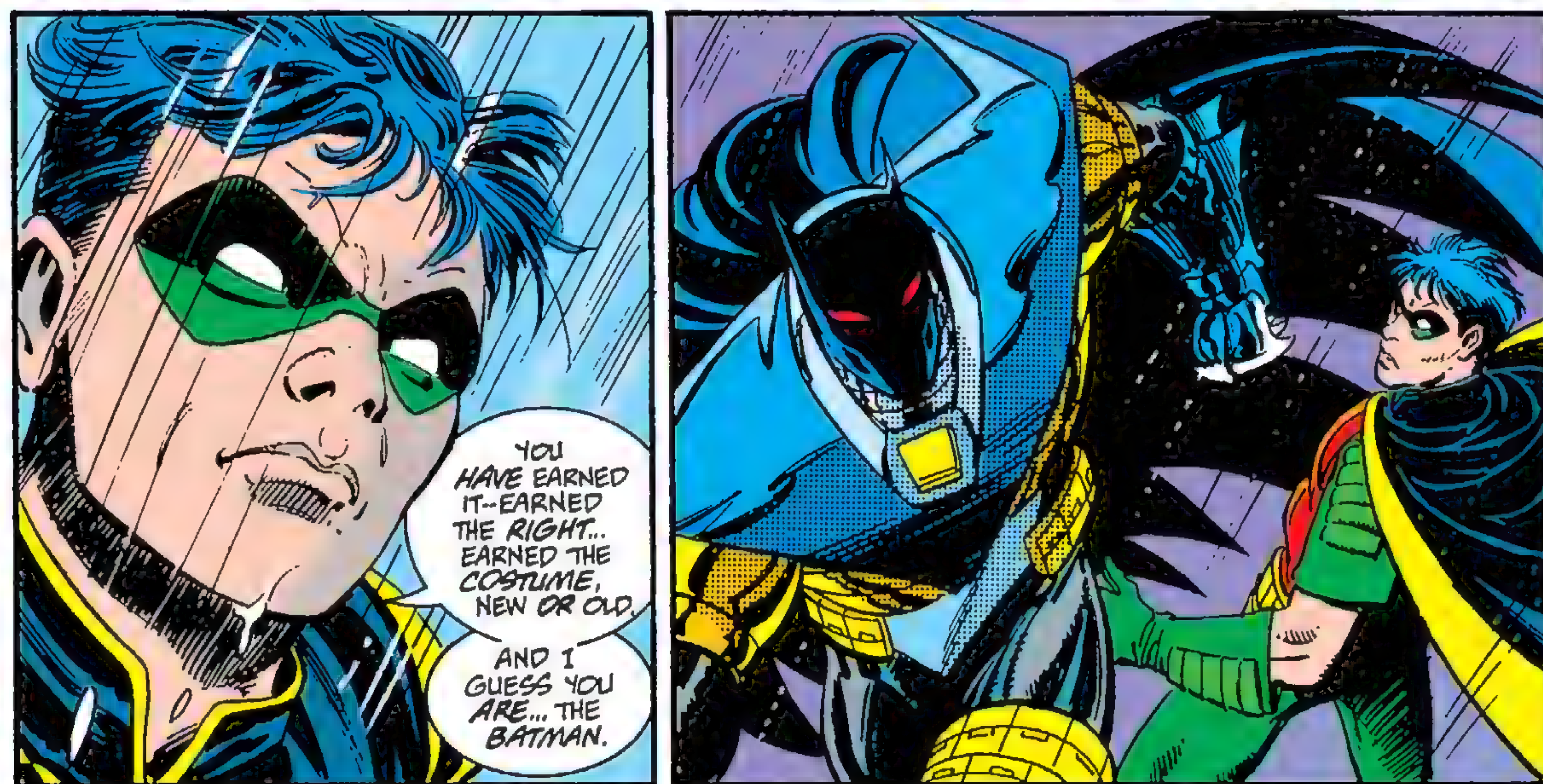
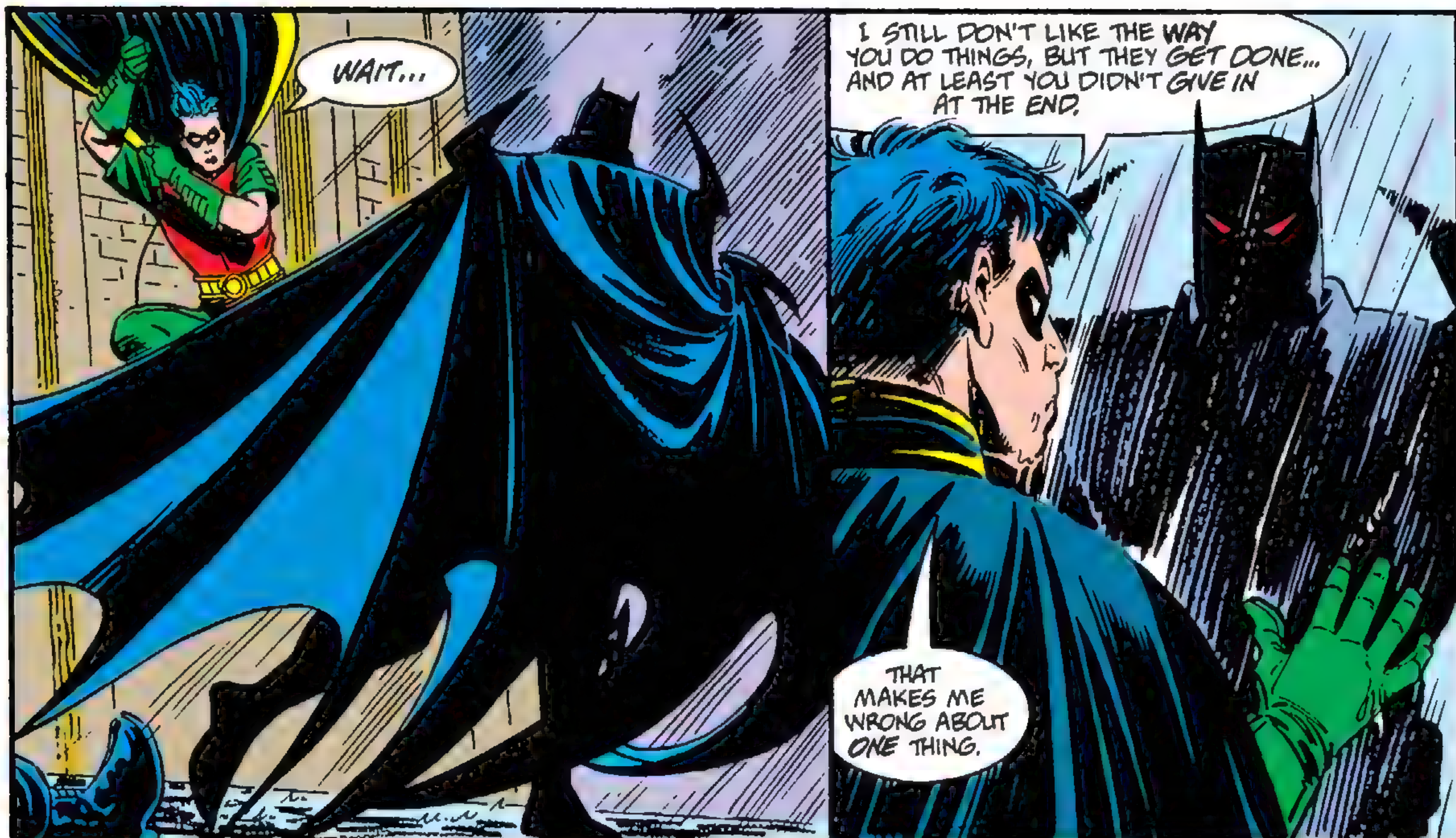
YES.

MAYBE
IT IS...STILL
HIM...

HEY, THE
GLOVES AIN'T
COMPLETELY OFF--
BUT WITH GLOVES LIKE
THAT, IT'S WORSE
LEAVIN' 'EM ON.

IF YOU
GENTLEMEN
WILL TAKE CARE
OF BANE...

...I HAVE
STANDING
ORDERS TO
REPORT TO THE
MAYOR.





THIS UNIT SERVES 2 PURPOSES
 (1) AS A FLASHLIGHT
 (2) CAN PROJECT A BAT SIGNAL
 CAN BE USED AS A NICE GRAPHIC
 ELEMENT TO SCARE
 THE HECK OUT OF
 BAD GUYS

HEAD GEAR GIVES BATMAN DIRECT ACCESS TO BATCAVE COMPUTER
 AND OPERATES ALL FUNCTIONS OF THIS NEW BAT SUIT, THUS GIVING
 BAT'S SPLIT SECOND USE OF ALL HIS GADGETS. NO MORE HAVING
 TO REACH INTO HIS UTILITY BELT, EVERYTHING IS DONE
 VIA VOICE COMMANDS. EYE PIECE IS RETRACTABLE & CAN SENSE BODY HEAT,
 MAGNIFY, GIVE BAT'S NIGHT VISION, ETC.

HELMET CAPE & CHEST
 PLATE ARE ALL METALLIC

THESE UNITS CAN BE USES
 AS FLAME THROWERS, GAS &
 SMOKE RELEASE MECHANISM,
 AND OR ANYTHING
 ELSE YOU CAN THINK
 OF.

CAPE IS DESIGN SO
 THAT ARTIST WHO ENJOY
 PLAYING WITH BAT'S OLD CAPE
 AS A GRAPHIC ELEMENT STILL
 CAN FEEL FREE TO ADD
 SCALLOPS, LAYERS, JUST
 MAKE IT LOOK NASTY,
 DANGEROUS & COOL!

CAPE'S EDGES &
 SCALLOPS ON
 GUANTLET'S ARE
 RAZOR SHARP
 & CAN & SHOULD BE
 USED AS WEAPONS

--- LASER SIGHT
 FOR
 BATARANG
 NINJA STARS

--- BATARANG NINJA STARS
 DISCHARGE
 UNIT

--- CLAWS ARE SHARP ENOUGH
 TO SCALE BUILDINGS

--- SCALLOPS ARE RAZOR
 SHARP

GRAPPLING GUNS

UTILITY BELT
 & WEB GEAR
 FOR BACK UP

BAT'S CAN
 USE CAPE AS
 A SHIELD
 E; IF A BOMB
 IS ABOUT TO
 EXPLODE BAT'S
 CAN WRAP
 HIMSELF INTO
 HIS CAPE.

2/7/93

BATMAN REDESIGN 9/17/93

HERE GEAR.... SIMPLER!

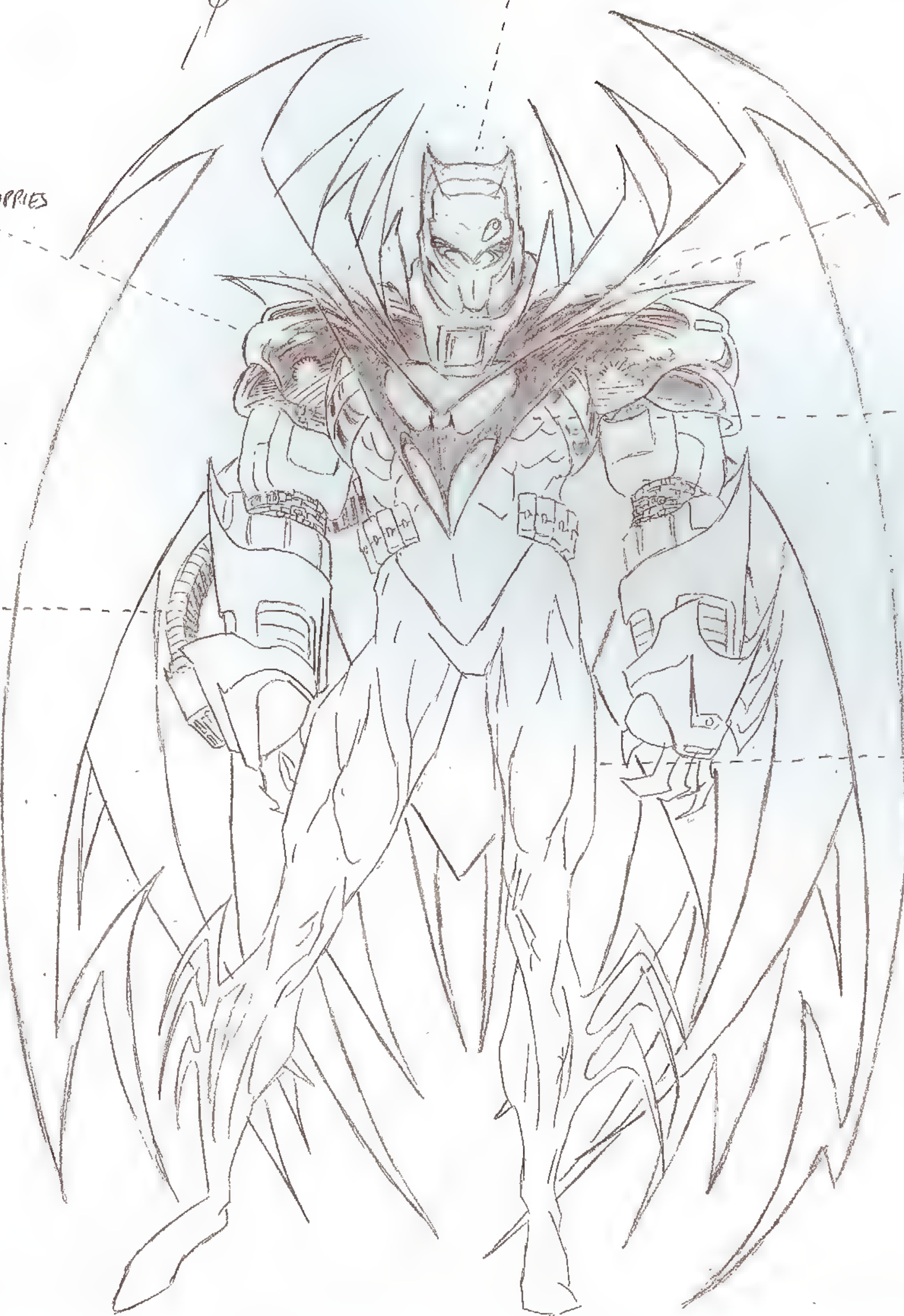
KEEP THESE PURRIES
METALLIC
(SIMPLER)

THE WAY THE
CAPE ATTACHES
IS A LITTLE
SIMPLER

BAT INSIGNIA. BECAUSE
THE FANS DEMANDS
IT (WHITE AREAS SHOULD
BE YELLOW, GOLD
WHATEVER)

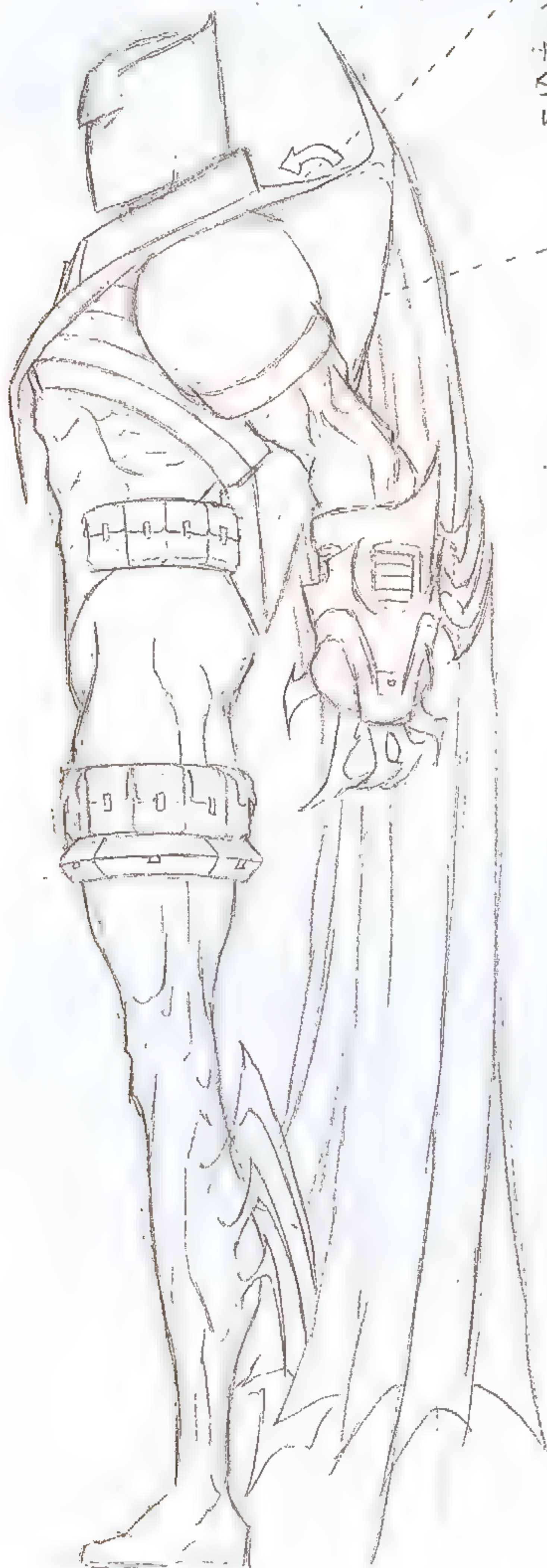
OK SO THOSE
THINGS OVER HIS
BACK WERE
A LITTLE
AWKWARD, WELL
NOW THE FLAME,
SMOKE, WHATEVER
DEVICE HAS
BEEN (CONVERTED)
INTO AN
ATTACHMENT
THAT SNAPS ONTO
HIS GAUNTLET
[SIMPLER, SEE
I'VE GOT YOU
GUYS IN
MIND]

--- HEY LOOK MA, NO
WEIRD GEAR, NO NEED WITH
ALL THE EXTRA STUFF,
HEY HE'S HEAVY
ENOUGH AS IS
[KEEPS GETTING
SIMPLER]



NEW BATMAN SIDE VIEW
 FIRST VERSION
 9/28/93

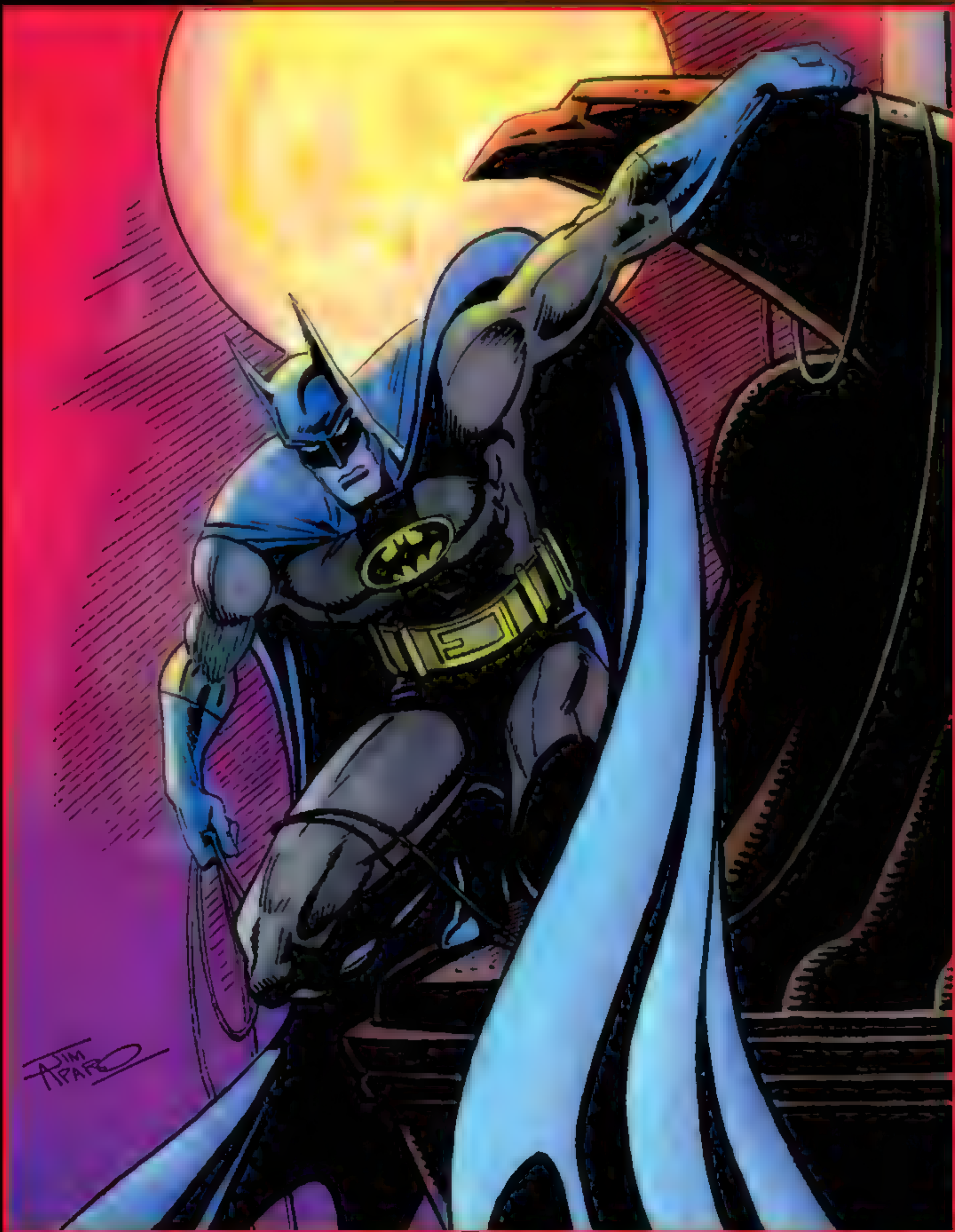
CS.



CAPE Curls OVER
 BREAST PLATE & COVERS THE ENTIRE PLATE
 WITH GLUES OR SECURED OF FUSED
 SOME HOW. HERE THIS IS COMICS
 WE'RE TALKING HERE!

THE BACK PORTION OF THE
 BREAST PLATE IS NOT COVERED
 AND SHOULD HAVE A METALLIC
 LOOK WHEN SHOWN.

NOTE: WHEN THE TIME COMES
 TO CHANGE INTO THE NEW
 CAPE, THE BACK PORTION
 WILL BE LOWER RIGHT
 TO ABOUT MIDTHIGH LEVEL



BATMAN
Postcard Insert
by **JIM APARO**



NEW BATMAN
Postcard Insert
by **MIKE MANLEY**



BATMAN #500 Variant Die-Cut Cover by JOE QUESADA and KEVIN NOWLAN



BATMAN #500 Variant Cover by JOE QUESADA and KEVIN NOWLAN



BATMAN #500 Poster by KELLEY JONES



The diabolical brute known as Bane has finally defeated Batman and is one step closer to taking control of Gotham City. Without any options left, the Dark Knight must pass his iconic cape and cowl to a worthy ally. A new Batman arrives in Gotham, and his first order of business is to do what Bruce Wayne couldn't do himself—defeat Bane.

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOL. 2 is part of a nine-volume 25th-anniversary series that revisits Batman's seminal clash with Bane. This volume collects *BATMAN* #498-500, *DETECTIVE COMICS* #664-666, *SHOWCASE* '93 #7-8 and *BATMAN: SHADOW OF THE BAT* #16-18, along with additional material from the creators.

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL
saga includes:

BATMAN:
PRELUDE TO KNIGHTFALL
BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOL. 1
BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOL. 2
BATMAN: KNIGHTQUEST:
THE CRUSADE VOL. 1
BATMAN: KNIGHTQUEST:
THE CRUSADE VOL. 2
BATMAN: KNIGHTQUEST:
THE SEARCH
BATMAN: KNIGHTSEND
BATMAN: PRODIGAL
BATMAN: TROIKA

dccomics.com

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

